ISO 639-3 Registration Authority  
Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3  
This form is to be used in conjunction with a “Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code” form  
Date: 2007-4-9  
Name of Primary Requester: Barb Waugh  
E-mail address: Barb_Waugh@sall.com  
Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:  
Associated Change request number : 2007-008 (completed by Registration Authority)  
Tentative assignment of new identifier : rkt (completed by Registration Authority)  
PLEASE NOTE: This completed form will become part of the public record of this change request and the history of the ISO 639-3 code set. Use Shift-Enter to insert a new line in a form field (where allowed).  

1. NAMES and IDENTIFICATION  
a) Preferred name of language for code element denotation:  
Kamta in India, Rangpuri in Bangladesh  
b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:  
c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:  
KAMTAPURI, RAJBANSI, RAJBANGSI, RAJBANSHI, RAJBONGSHI, GOALPARIA,  
KOCH RAJBANSHI in India  
BAHE BANGLA, ANCHALIT (LOCAL) BANGLA, POLIA in Bangladesh  
d) Reason for preferred name:  
The term 'Rajbanshi' refers to a specific Hindu caste, but the speakers are drawn from a number of socio-religious groups. In particular, the speakers include a large number of Muslims who by and large do not appreciate being referred to by the Hindu title 'Rajbanshi'.  
e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language:  
spoken by Rajbanshi, deshi mussalman (‘indigenous Muslims’), Koch Rajbanshi in India by all native castes in Rangpur and Dinajpur areas of Bangladesh  
population 15,000,000 = 10,000,000 in Bangladesh + 5,000,000 in India  
f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available:  
Your suggestion will be taken into account, but the Registration Authority will determine the identifier to be proposed. The identifiers is not intended to be an abbreviation for a name of the language, but to serve as a device to identify a given language uniquely. With thousands of languages, many sets of which have similar names, it is not possible to provide identifiers that resemble a language name in every case.  

2. TEMPORAL DESCRIPTION and LOCATION  
a) Is this a  
☒ Living language  
☐ Nearly extinct/secondary use only (includes languages in revival)
b) Countries where used:
   India, Bangladesh

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   India - West Bengal [Jalpaiguri, Uttar Dinajpur, Koch Bihar, Darjeeling districts]; Assam [Dhubri and Kokrajhar districts]; The ethnic group extends into Bongaigaon and Barpeta districts where the language becomes considerably more similar to Assamese

   Bangladesh - Rajshahi division north from Bogra, also known as the greater Dinajpur and Rangpur areas, now sub-divided into Rangpur, Lalmonihat, Nilphamari, Gaibandha, Panchagar, Thakurgaon, and Dinajpur districts.

d) For an ancient or historical language, give approximate time frame; for a recently extinct language, give the approximate date of the last known user’s death

3. MODALITY AND LINGUISTIC AFFILIATION
a) This language is: [ ] Signed [ ] Spoken [ ] Attested only in writings

b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:
   Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Eastern zone, Bengali-Assamese

c) Closest language linguistically. For signed language, note influence from other signed or spoken languages:

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE
a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.: dramas, poems, songs, stories, magazine, Jesus Film, Sanskrit-model grammars and a dictionary
b) Is this language officially recognized by any level of government? Is it used in any levels of formal education as a language of instruction (for other subjects)? Is it taught in schools?

The official status of this language in West Bengal is a controversial political subject. While the State Government does not recognise the autonomy of the Rajbanshi language, the Kamatapuri People’s Party on the other hand insists that it is an autonomous language, and furthermore argues that this linguistic autonomy lends support for their demand for political autonomy.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:

In India there is a strong ideology that they are the descendents of the old Koch kingdom, that they have a separate identity to the Bengalis and that their language and culture should not be subordinate to Bangla language or Bangali culture. This movement is over a century old, and at present is manifest in the demand for a separate state Kamatapur with state language Kamatapuri (alternate romanisation: Kamtapuri). Situation is very sensitive.

In Bangladesh they have a strong attachment to their mother tongue, but there is no movement for language recognition or development. On the contrary, the prestige associated with standard Bangla, and the speakers’ acceptance of Bangla socio-political identity make the future viability of this speech variety somewhat questionable.

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

You do not need to repeat sources previously identified in the form, “Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code”

a) First-hand knowledge. Describe:

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):

see accompanying change request

**Please return this form to:**

ISO 639-3 Registrar
SIL International, Office of Language Information Systems
7500 West Camp Wisdom Road
Dallas, Texas 75236 USA
Email: iso639-3@sil.org
An email attachment of this completed form is preferred.

**Further information:**

If your request for a new language code element is supported by the Registration Authority as a formal proposal, you may be contacted separately by researchers working with the Ethnologue or with LinguistList asking you to provide additional information.

**Sources of documentation for ISO 639-3 identifiers:**


LinguistList. Constructed Languages. [http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html](http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html)