



*File SR-1000*

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES**

**(A Constitutional Commission set up under Art. 338A of the Constitution to investigate and monitor all matters relating to violation of rights and safeguards provided for STs.)**

**F.No: Puducherry/1/Policy/2013/RU-IV**

**Date: 01.12.2014**

To

Shri. Rajeev Prakash,  
Director,  
Ministry of Tribal Affairs,  
(C&LM-1 Division),  
Shastri Bhawan,  
New Delhi -01.

**Sub: Identification of community as Scheduled Tribes in UT of Puducherry**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter No. 12016/7/2003- TA (RL)C&LM-1(Part-II) dated 07.11.2013 and 27.03.2014 requesting for furnishing views/comments of the Commission and to say that subject matter was discussed as Agenda Item No. VI in the 62<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Commission held on 17.10.2014 and Agenda Item No. 1 in the 63<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Commission held on 31.10.2014. The relevant Extracts from the Summary Record of the meeting of the Commission are enclosed for information and further necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

*N. B.*  
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**(N. Balasubramanian)**  
**Research Officer**



Copy for information to:-

1. The Chief Secretary, Govt. of Puducherry, Puducherry.

✓ 2. SSA (NIC) for uploading on the Website of NCST

3. Assistant Director (Coordination).

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**(N. Balasubramanian)**  
**Research Officer**



62<sup>nd</sup> MEETING  
OF THE  
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES  
SUMMARY RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2014    **Time:** 12:00 hours

**Venue:** Conference Room, NCST, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Lok Nayak Bhawan, New Delhi.

**In the Chair:** Dr. Rameshwar Oraon, Hon'ble Chairperson, NCST

List of Participants: Annexed.

All the seven Agenda Items were discussed and decided as below:

<b>Agenda Item VI</b>	<b>Identification of community of Scheduled Tribes in UT of Puducherry.</b>
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15. Ministry of Tribal Affairs vide letter No.12016/7/2013-TA (RL)/C&LM-I (Part-II) dated 07/11/2013 has sought the comments of the Commission on the proposal received from the Ministry of Home Affairs vide their D.O. No.8/1/2004-SS (Puducherry) dated 21/06/2013 for Identification of community of Scheduled Tribes in UT of Puducherry; (i) Irular (including Villi and Vettaikaran), (ii) Kattunayakan, (iii) Malikuravan, (iv) Yerukkula and (v) Kuruman) total 5 comments .The proposal was discussed in the 52<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Commission.

16. The Commission noted that the proposal of the UT of Puducherry relied upon the report of the University of Pondicherry. The report does not indicate the period when the study was conducted and the purpose for which it was conducted. As the study was not conducted at the instance of the UT Government for formulating the proposal for inclusion and also because it does not examine their presence in reference to the census figures on migration, nativity etc., the Commission could not extend credibility to the study report. Since the report discloses shortcomings in terms of data examined, population migration, anthropological studies and legal aspects, the Commission decided that a team from the Commission may visit the UT of Puducherry; particularly the specific areas inhabited by the communities included in the proposal and submit a report to the Commission for consideration.

17. A team comprising Dr. Rameshwar Oraon, Chairperson, Secretary and Director, of the Commission visited the UT of Puducherry from 31/08/2014 to 03/08/2014. The Commission conducted field visit to the villages namely: (i) T.N. Palayan Habitation (ii) Vadanur Habitation of UT of Puducherry. Also Nallambal (Habitation) and Karukan Kudi Habitation of District Karaikal of the UT of Puducherry and had discussion with anthropologist and Association.

18. Observations of the field visit were discussed and matter postponed for further discussion in the next meeting of the Commission.

**63<sup>rd</sup> MEETING**  
**OF THE**  
**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES**  
**SUMMARY RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS**

**Date:** 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2014    **Time:** 12:05 hours

**Venue:** Conference Room, NCST, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Lok Nayak Bhawan, New Delhi.

**In the Chair:** Dr. Rameshwar Oraon, Hon'ble Chairperson, NCST

**List of Participants:** Annexed.

**Agenda**

<b>Item I</b>	<b>Consideration of visit report of the Commission on the proposal for identification of (i) Irular (including Villi and Vettaikaran), (ii) Kattunayakan, (iii) Malikuravan, (iv) Yerukkula and (v) Kuruman) tribes . in the list of Scheduled Tribes in UT of Puducherry.</b>
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Proposal for identification of five communities namely (i) Irular (including Villi and Vettaikaran), (ii) Kattunayakan, (iii) Malikuravan, (iv) Yerukkula and (v) Kuruman) in the list of STs was forwarded by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs vide letter No.12016/7/2013-TA (RL)/C&LM-I (Part-II) dated 07/11/2013

2. Pursuant to discussions held 23/01/2014 on in 52<sup>nd</sup> and 17/10/2014 62<sup>nd</sup> and meeting of Commission, a team from the Commission visited Puducherry during from 31/08/2014 to 03/09/2014. During field visit, interaction was held with the habitants, material was collected and meetings were held with Anthropologists/ experts/representatives. Contents of the treaty of Cession of the French Establishments of Pondicherry were also looked into. Visit report entails following recommendations /observations ;

- i) Commission consider recommend for identification of 'Irular' (Villi and Vettaikaran) community in the list of ST of the UT of Puducherry



- ii) Regarding inclusion of Kattunayakan and Mallakuravan communities, further discussions and interaction with the RGI and UT Administration may be held before formulating a final opinion.
- iii) As regards Yerukula community it was observed that their economic activities consists of hunting, pig rearing and basket making. Traditionally they are fortune tellers and basket maker. Community accepts food and uncooked food items from other high caste, They tender sooth saying the traditional occupation to both the higher and lower castes. RGI has also mentioned that this is a migrant population from the adjoining State of Andhra Pradesh. In Andhra Pradesh the community is listed at Sl. No. 33 as YERUKULAS as ST. Before formulating any opinion regarding Yerukula community the UT Administration may be asked to carry out detailed ethnographic and socio-economic surveys/studies pertaining to Yerukula community to substantiate the claim for identification of this Community as ST in the UT of Puducherry.
- iv) About Kuruman community , the Commission noted that as per discussions held with the representatives of Kuruman community, officers of UT and district administration and other social groups and taking into consideration the views of RGI commented vide D.O. No. 8/1/2004-SS/Puducherry dated 21/06/2013 that Kuruman community is having a meagre population of about 100-125 in the UT distributed in nine villages. They have their own Tribal council with the Head man who is respected and obeyed in the community. The Kuruman consider themselves lower in status due to their traditional occupation of hunting and basket making. Kuruman are also working as scavengers and watchman, they treat themselves superior to SCs. In view of above, a detailed analysis alongwith statistical information regarding their original habitation in Puducherry w.r.t. census records of 1931, 1951 and 1961 is required to formulate any opinion about them.

3. Considering comments of RGI and findings/observations of the team of the Commission during field visits to Pudcucherry, the Commission agrees to the observations / findings of the field visit and approves the course of action, as discussed above.