

Sl. No. 23 (Issued)

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No.RU-IV/Service/Karnataka-2/2007
Government of India
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

6th Floor, 'B' Wing,
Loknayak Bhawan,
Khan Market,
New Delhi-110003

Dated: 11-09-2009

To

Dr. N.K. Ghatak,
Joint Director,
Ministry of Tribal Affairs,
Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi-110001

Subject: Inclusion of 'Medara' community as synonym of 'Meda' ST community notified at Sl. No. 37 in the list of Karnataka.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to Ministry of Tribal Affairs' letter No.12016/12/2001-TA (RL)/C&LM-I, dated 24-04-2009, on the subject mentioned above and to say that the proposal of the State Government of Karnataka for inclusion of 'Medara' community in the ST list of Karnataka was discussed at length in the Commission's meeting held on 02-09-2009.

2. The Commission noted that the State Government of Karnataka first recommended inclusion of four communities namely MEDARA, MEDARI, GAURIGA, and BURUD as synonyms of MEDA community in the list of Scheduled Tribes of the State vide their letter dated 19-10-1995. The proposal of the State Government was considered by the Government of India. It was, however, found that while the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, 2002, notified on 07-01-2003, included MEDARI, GAURIGA and BURUD as synonyms of MEDA in the ST list of Karnataka, it did not include MEDARA community as synonym of MEDA community. This omission was pointed out by the State Government vide their letter dated 19-03-2003. The State Government stated that in case the omission was due to oversight, action might be taken by the Government of India to include MEDARA also as synonym of MEDA. Apart from the State Government's above mentioned letter, the Commission took into consideration the following documents/inputs in support of its decision to agree to the proposal of the State Government :

(i) Letter dated 27-12-2006 from the office of Registrar General of India, New Delhi specifically recommending inclusion of MEDARA as synonym of MEDA in the ST list of Karnataka.


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- (ii) Additional inputs provided by the State Government vide their letter dated 05-06-2008 in reply to the Commission's letter dated 21-09-2007 regarding social customs, dialects, way of living, occupation, religious practices and practice of inter-marriage among the people belonging to MEDA and MEDARA communities.
- (iii) Additional inputs provided by the report of the Hon'ble Member of the Commission (Shri Tsering Samphel) dated 05-03-2008 after his visit to the districts of Dharwar, Belgaum, Haveri and Uttara Kannada regarding the social customs, dialects and educational & economic status of the people belonging to MEDA, MEDARA and MEDARI communities.

3. The Commission further noted that in his report dated 05-03-2008 (referred to above), the Hon'ble Member, inter-alia, stated that some of the members of 'MEDARA' community, as in the case of any other Scheduled Tribe community, had shifted to urban areas due to educational needs and in search of source of livelihood, but their original family members continued to live in the original tribal habitats, mostly in hills and therefore, the fact that some of the MEDARA community members were inhabiting in urban areas and to that extent were not geographically isolated, could not be a valid reason to deny them their due rights admissible as Scheduled Tribes. **The Commission, therefore, expressed its agreement to the proposal for inclusion of 'MEDARA' community as a synonym of 'MEDA' community in the ST list of Karnataka.**

Yours faithfully,


(R.P. Vasishtha)
Deputy Secretary
Tel: 24620638

Also sent by fax. 

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