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No.12016/10/2003-TA(RL)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi-1. Dated: 16th June, 2004

To

The Chief Secretaries/Administrators of all States/Uts

**Sub: Verification of Caste Certificates by Scrutiny Committee approved by the State Govt.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the D.O. letter No.6/4/2004-SCT(B) dated 13.5.2004 received from the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) on the above subject and to say that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal agency for specification of communities as Scheduled Tribes under Article 342. The work of issuance and verification of social status certificates rests with the concerned State Governments.

The judgement of the Supreme Court in the case of Madhuri Patil (Civil Appeal No.5854 of 1994 (arising out of SLP (Civil) No.14767 of 1993) wherein the Apex Court has directed that the caste certificates be scrutinized at the earliest and with utmost expedition and promptitude. It directed the Government to streamline the procedure for the issuance of social status certificate, their scrutiny and their approval. In view of the directions of the Supreme Court it is requested that the verification for the caste status may be done expeditiously as per the procedure prescribed by the Apex Court, so that the constitutional obligation intended for benefits and advancement of the genuine Scheduled Tribes are not defeated by unscrupulous persons.

It is, therefore, requested to direct the concerned authorities of the States to entrust all cases of verification of Caste Certificates including educational institutions. Public bodies, PSUs, local bodies and other autonomous institutions, where reservation for SCs and STs are applicable to the Scrutiny Committee appointed by the State Government. The Scrutiny Committee may be given jurisdiction by administrative order so that their report may not be challenged in the High Court and the bogus caste certificate cases pending before the courts are not decided against the Government/Public Sector Banks on such technical grounds.

Yours faithfully,

  
(Dr.N.K. Ghatak)

Joint Director

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Recd by  
Secy post  
16 June 2004

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