

Modalities for deciding claims for inclusion in, exclusion from and other modifications in the Orders specifying Scheduled Castes and scheduled Tribes have been notified. Such proposals are required to be processed as indicated below: -

(a) Cases favoured by both the State Governments and the Registrar General of India (RGI) in their most recent reports would be referred to the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for their opinion. They would be forwarded to the Commission individually or in batches, as may be practicable, along with the comments of the State Governments and the RGI as well as any relevant material/information furnished by them or by representations.

(b) Some issues concern not one but several States e.g. the status of SC/ST migrants. These would also be referred to the National Commission if the RGI and majority of concerned States have supported modification.

(c) It may be suggested to the Commission that, while examining the above cases, they should associate, through panels or other means, expert individuals, organizations and institutions in the fields of anthropology, ethnography and other social sciences, in addition to the State Governments, RGI and the Anthropological Survey of India, on a regional basis. They may also consider holding public hearings in areas relevant to the claims under examination. These guidelines cannot be binding on the Commission, but may be suggested in the interest of fuller examination of the cases. The Commission would also be requested to give priority to cases in which the Courts have given directives regarding decision within a stipulated time period. (In such cases, extension of time would be sought from the courts where necessary, citing these modalities for the determination of claims). Such cases would be separately processed and sent for earlier decision.

(d) Amending legislation would be proposed to the Cabinet in all cases in which the National Commission, RGI as well as the State Governments have