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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
SOCIAL WELFARE AND LABOUR SECRETARIAT

CIRCULAR

Sub: Issue of Caste Certificates to Scheduled Tribes—instructions reg.

No. SWL 264 SET 81, BANGALORE, DATED 24TH JUNE 1981.

It has come to the notice of the Government that Non-Scheduled Tribes are obtaining false caste certificates for the purposes of educational benefits and employment in Government service and Public Sector undertakings. There has been a steep and sudden increase in the number of beneficiaries in respect of Pre-matric and Post-matric scholarships from 1978-79, resulting an abnormal increase in the expenditure particularly in non-Tribal districts. The Committee on the welfare of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes has also expressed its serious concern over the increasing trend of false caste certificates being obtained by the Non-Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes. The Committee has also expressed "in the opinion of the Committee, drastic action should be taken to punish the persons responsible for producing false certificates and also those who issued caste certificates, treating them as criminal offence."

It is a common knowledge that the Tribes are found mainly in hills away from the pocket of civilisation, they manifest certain features as indicated by the Government of India as a criteria to decide whether a person belongs to Scheduled Tribe or not. According to the criteria laid down by the Government of India the tribes should manifest "indications of primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness of contact with the community at large and backwardness." This has been further amplified in the Havanur Committee Report (Volume II, page 77, para 3) "in the case of Scheduled Tribes, the majority of the enumerated tribal communities and racial groups live in jungles and hills isolated from the rest of the society. Because of the disabilities imposed on the Scheduled Castes and the inaccessible places where the Scheduled Tribe live, they lead a sub-human and primitive life. Their place of habitation is poor and barren. They follow unclean occupations. Education is almost completely extinct. To describe their life in short they are no better than animals. The backwardness of those classes is known to one and all."

The above guide-lines should be strictly kept in view while deciding whether a person belongs to Schedule Tribe or not before issuing the caste certificate. It has been made clear in Government Circular No. SWL 296 SAD 77 dated 29th November 1977 that "these instructions do not oblige the officers concerned of their responsibility to exercise due care and scrutiny to prevent ineligible candidates from obtaining caste certificates in a fraudulent manner;"

It is once again reiterated that the officers empowered to issue caste certificates, particularly Tahsildars, should scrutinise very carefully claims for issue of caste certificates in respect of Scheduled Tribes. After proper verification and reliable enquiries caste certificates should be issued.

J. ALEXANDER,
Secretary to Government,
Social Welfare & Labour Department.

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1. The Compiler, Karnataka Gazette, for Publication in the Gazette.
 2. Divisional Commissioners
 3. Director of Social Welfare, Bangalore,
 4. Deputy Commissioners of the Districts.
 5. All the District Social Welfare Officers in the State.
 6. Project Co-ordinators, ITP., Udipi, Pattur, Mudigere, Ponnampet & Heggadadevana Kote.
 7. Tahsildars.
 8. Block Development Officers.
 9. Asst. Education Officers and Deputy Directors of Public Instruction.
 10. Weekly Gazette.

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