

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. letter dated 26.8.2013 addressed by Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India is reproduced below:

"I write to bring to your personal attention, a long pending issue relating to a nomadic tribal group found in Tamil Nadu, known as **Narikoravan** or **Narikoravar** or **Kuruvikkaran** or **Kuruvikkarar** community who have been representing to the Government for inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Tamil Nadu.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has been repeatedly writing to the Government of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, regarding the inclusion of "**Narikoravan Grouped with Kuruvikkaran Community**" in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Tamil Nadu. I wish to draw your attention to the detailed letter No.22747/A/CV-1/2007-7, dated 16.7.2012 from the Government of Tamil Nadu wherein my Government had clearly explained the urgent need for inclusion of "**Narikoravan grouped with Kuruvikkaran Community**" in the Scheduled Tribes list of Tamil Nadu. In the said letter it has been clarified to the Government of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, regarding the spelling of the name of the community in the colloquial and formal forms in Tamil, and the use of the names **Narikoravan, Narikuravan and Narikoravar** interchangeably to represent the same community. It was also clarified that **Kuruvikkaran** is an additional colloquial name of the community in Tamil Nadu, used to refer to one of their transitional occupations of trapping birds, especially sparrows, for which the Tamil word is "**Kuruvi**".

The Government of Tamil Nadu had in this letter clearly pointed out that expert bodies, the Lokur Committee and the Joint Committee of Parliament had recommended the inclusion of Narikoravan, Kuruvikkaran in the Scheduled Tribes list of Tamil Nadu. The Registrar General of India, had also agreed to the proposal for inclusion of "**Narikoravan grouped with Kuruvikkaran Community**" in the Scheduled Tribes list on the lines of the recommendations of the expert bodies. The State Government had therefore urged the Government of India to take appropriate and urgent steps for inclusion of "**Narikoravan grouped with Kuruvikkaran Community**" in the Scheduled Tribes list of Tamil Nadu by amending the Constitution as envisaged under Article 342(1) and 342(2) of the Constitution of India.

Based on the recommendations of the State Government, Government of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, vide their letter F.No.12016/3/2011-C&LM-I, dated 30.4.2013 informed that the Registrar General of India and the National Commission of Scheduled Tribes, New Delhi, have also agreed to the proposal for inclusion of "**Narikoravan grouped with Kuruvikkaran**" in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Tamil Nadu and the Ministry is in the process of preparing the draft cabinet note for inclusion of Narikoravan group with Kuruvikkaran in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Tamil Nadu.

Further, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, in its letter dated F.No.12016/3/2011-C&LM-I, dated 29.7.2013, had also sought the name of **'Narikoravan grouped with Kuruvikkaran'** in its Hindi version in order to enable the Ministry to finalise the draft note for the Union Cabinet for inclusion of **'Narikoravan grouped with Kuruvikkaran'** in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Tamil Nadu. The Government of Tamil Nadu has furnished this information to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

The Narikoravars constitute one of the most deprived and vulnerable communities in Tamil Nadu, who are nomadic and extremely poor and deserve all the Constitutional protection and welfare measures envisaged by inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes. Justice in the form of inclusion of the community in the list of Scheduled Tribes has eluded the Narikkoravars for far too long. They urgently need to be provided all the Constitutional guarantees envisaged by Article 342 of the Constitution of India to enable them to lead a life of equality and dignity along with other citizens of India.

Based on the request made by my Government, as the note for the Union Cabinet for inclusion of **'Narikoravan grouped with Kuruvikkaran Community'** in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Tamil Nadu is now ready for discussion, I request you to kindly intervene personally in the matter and to take prompt action for the inclusion of **"Narikoravan grouped with Kuruvikkaran Community"** in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Tamil Nadu in the requisite consolidated amendment, as envisaged under Article 342(1) and 342(2) of the Constitution of India and to ensure that the necessary legislation is moved in the current session of Parliament itself."

Issued by : Director of Information & Public Relations, Chennai-9
Date : 27.8.2013