



No. RL-16014/7/2026-RL Cell  
Government of India

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment  
Department of Social Justice and Empowerment  
[Revision of List (of Scheduled Castes) Cell]

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8<sup>th</sup> Floor, GPOA, Block – 3, Netaji Nagar, New Delhi - 110023

Dated: 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2026

To

The Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories

Subject: Curbing misuse of fake caste certificates and ensuring expeditious verification of caste certificates.

Sir/ Madam,

I am directed to state that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment from time to time has issued detailed guidelines/instructions to the State/UT Governments regarding the problem of issuance of false Scheduled Caste (SC) certificates. The latest instructions were issued on 11.03.2019 and 27.07.2021 (*copies enclosed*) requesting the State/UT Government to issue necessary directions to all officials under their control, who are empowered to issue Scheduled Caste certificates, to exercise due care before issuing such certificates. The State/ UT Governments have also been requested to take appropriate action against such officials who are found to have issued certificates carelessly or without proper verification or who default in the timely verification of SC certificates.

2. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgment dated 02.09.1994 in the case of ***Kumari Madhuri Patil vs. Addl. Commissioner***, held that admission wrongly gained or appointments wrongly obtained on the basis of false Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Other Backward Class (OBC) certificates have the effect of depriving genuine candidates belonging to SC, ST or OBC of the benefits conferred on them by the Constitution. Accordingly, in order to streamline the procedure for the issuance and scrutiny of social status certificates, the Hon'ble Supreme Court, in the aforesaid judgment, laid down detailed guidelines/procedure to be followed by the State Governments for issuance of caste certificate and verification thereof.

3. Despite the detailed instructions, instances have come to the notice of this Ministry that there is persistent misuse of fake/false caste certificates by ineligible individuals to wrongfully avail themselves of benefits meant for Scheduled Castes. The State Governments, sometimes, in the guise of clarificatory circulars wrongly issue Scheduled Caste (SC) certificates to the members of communities not listed as Scheduled Castes by claiming that they are synonymous with listed castes. This leads to ineligible individuals receiving SC benefits, depriving genuine beneficiaries. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has ruled that the list of Scheduled Castes notified under Article 341 of the Constitution of India must be followed exactly as written. No caste or sub-group can be treated as equivalent unless it is explicitly listed in the Presidential Order issued under Article 341. Only Parliament has the authority to modify the SC list by law. State Governments, courts, or any other authorities cannot add, remove, or alter entries in this list.

(P.T.O.)

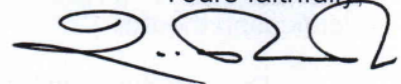
4. In view of the above, the existing instructions are reiterated, all States and Union Territories are requested to:-

- i. Issue necessary instructions to the competent authorities empowered to issue caste certificate to ensure that Scheduled Caste certificate is issued to a person who actually belongs to the community included in the Presidential Order specifying the Scheduled Castes in relation to the concerned State/Union Territory and name of the community in SC certificate should be mentioned exactly as it appears in the Presidential Order.
- ii. Strengthen the mechanism for issuance of caste certificates to prevent fraud at the source.
- iii. Expedite the scrutiny and disposal of verification cases particularly involving suspected fake caste certificates in a time-bound manner.
- iv. Take strict action against individuals holding false Scheduled Caste certificates, deprive them of benefits that they are not entitled to and impose suitable penalties and take appropriate legal action against them.
- v. Take action against the officials under the relevant provisions of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, if any of them is found to have issued caste certificates carelessly and without proper verification. Further, action should be taken against the officials who deliberately delay the process of verification of caste certificates.

This issue may be accorded the priority to safeguard the constitutional provisions and ensure that benefits reach the intended sections of society only.

Encl.: As above.

Yours faithfully,



(Shailendra Kumar)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India

**R. Subrahmanyam, IAS**  
Secretary



Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment  
Department of Social Justice & Empowerment  
Government of India

D.O.RL-12017/6/2021-RLCell  
Date: 27.7.2021

**Dear Chief Secretary,**

As you are aware that Constitution of India and other statutes provide various concessions/privileges and protection to the members of Scheduled Castes (SCs). However, at various forums concern has been expressed about non-eligible persons getting these benefits on the basis of false /fake certificates, thereby denying opportunities to deserving SCs.

2. In this regard I would like to invite your kind attention to this Department's letter No. 12017/02/2018-SCD (R.L.Cell) dated 11.03.2019 (copy enclosed) addressed to the Chief Secretaries of all the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations requesting to issue necessary instructions to authorities empowered to issue social status certificates to issue SC certificates after proper verification and action should be taken against the officials, if any of them is found to have issued the certificates carelessly and without proper verification.

3. I would be grateful, if the State Government/ Union Territory Administration take strict measures to detect such cases of non- SC persons holding false SC certificates, deprive them of benefits that they are not entitled to and impose appropriate penalties and take legal action against them and against those who were responsible for the issue of such certificates. Action taken in the matter be intimated to this Department urgently with regard to (i) number of fake/false certificates detected during last three years, (ii) action taken against persons who obtained such certificates under I.P.C. etc., (iii) action taken against erring officials who issued false/ fake certificates and (iv) details of the steps taken to curb such malpractices in future.

**With regards,**

Yours sincerely,

(R. Subrahmanyam)

To,

The Chief Secretaries of all States/UT Administrations  
(except Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Union Territory of Andaman  
and Nicobar and Lakshadweep)



No. 12017/02/2018-SCD (R.L. Cell)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment  
Department of Social Justice and Empowerment

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi  
New Delhi, dated: 11.03.2019

To,

The Chief Secretaries to all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

**Subject:** Expeditious verification of caste status and imposing of punishment on persons holding false Scheduled Caste certificates and against those who were responsible for issue of such certificates.

Sir,

I am directed to say that Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in its Thirtieth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) has expressed concern over a spurt in number of cases of false caste certificates and delay in the verification of social status certificates. The Committee has recommended imposing of heavy fine and imprisonment on the holders of false Scheduled Caste certificates and those who have issued Scheduled Caste certificate to ineligible persons, carelessly or deliberately without proper verification.

2. In this regard, attention is invited to Ministry of Home Affairs letter No. BC 12025/1/82-SC&BCD.IV, dated 29.06.1982 (copy enclosed), addressed to the Chief Secretaries of all the State Governments /Union Territory Administrations requesting them to take strict measures to detect such cases of non-Scheduled Caste persons holding false Scheduled Caste certificates, deprive them of benefits that they are not entitled to and impose penalties and take legal action against them and against those who are responsible for the issue of such certificate strictly and expeditiously.

3. Reference is also invited to this Ministry's letter No. 12017/10/2002-SCD (R.L.Cell) dated 01.01.2003 (copy enclosed) addressed to the Chief Secretaries of all the State Governments/ UT Administrations requesting them that the verification of caste status may be done expeditiously as per procedure prescribed by the Supreme Court in the case of Madhuri Patil and Anr. Vs. Additional Commissioner, Tribal Development Department and Ors. (1995 AIR 94). So that constitutional obligations intended for the benefit and advancement of the genuine Scheduled Caste persons are not defeated by unscrupulous persons.

4. All the State Governments /U.T. Administrations are requested to issue necessary instructions to all the officials under their control who are empowered to issue social status certificates to take proper care before issuing them. These officials may also be informed that action would be taken against them under the relevant provisions of Indian Penal Code, if any of them is found to have issued certificates carelessly and without proper verification. Further, instructions may also be issued to the officials who have been assigned the job of verification of social status certificates to complete the verification expeditiously. Action should be taken against the officials who deliberately delay the process of verification.

**Encl: as above.**

Yours faithfully,



(Rashmi Chowdhary)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India