

Copy of letter No. 12025/14/90-SCD (R.L. Cell), dated 16th August, 1990 from Shri Mata Prasad, Additional Secretary to Government of India addressed to the Chief Secretary to all State Governments/U.T. Administrations and others.

Subject :—Avoidance of the terms like 'Harijan and Girijan' in respect of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in official matters, dealings etc.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Ministry of Home Affairs letter No. 12025/44/80-SC & BCD. I/IV, dated 10-2-82 addressed to all the State Government/U.T. Administrations in which a request made to issue instructions to the certificate issuing authorities not to insert the word 'Harijan' or 'Girijan' in the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe certificates, but to mention only the name of the Caste/Tribe to which the persons belongs. The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting was also requested vide letter No. 12025/44/80-SC & BCD. I/IV, dated 1-2-82 to use the terms 'Scheduled

Castes' and 'Scheduled Tribes' instead of 'Harijan' and 'Girijan' respectively in English and their appropriate translation in other national languages in public mass media. On request by the Ministry of Home Affairs (now Ministry of Welfare) vide its letter No. 12025/17/82-SC & BCD. IV/I, dated 19-10-82 to the erstwhile Ministry of Education and Culture (now Human Resource Development), It was brought to the notice of all the educational institutions under their control regarding the use of the terms Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes instead of the terms Harijan and Girijan in the School Leaving Certificates.

2. It has been represented from time to time by the various Organisations/Associations working for the welfare of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes that many State Governments/U.T. Administrations use the words 'Harijan' and 'Girijan' in official matter dealings, etc. These organisations have represented that the words 'Harijan' and 'Girijan' are derogatory and these words are often used for denoting Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by all the Government agencies. In this connection, it is clarified that nowhere in the Constitution of India the words Harijan and Girijan are used for denoting Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes respectively. In so far as the communities scheduled in the Presidential Orders of 1950 and 1951 are concerned, the term Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are invariably used. The use of any other term may introduce ambiguity, apart from producing a feeling of resentment in the minds of conscious members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

3. In view of the position explained above, it is requested that for all official transactions, matters, dealings, certificates etc., the Constitutional terms Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in English and their appropriate translation in other national languages should alone be used for denoting the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes included in the Presidential Orders mentioned above and for referring to those castes and tribes. The State Governments/U.T. Administrations are also requested that in the names of the Departments which are in overall charge of the development/welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, wherever terms like 'Harijan' and 'Girijan' are used, the Constitutional terms Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes be substituted.