



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

State List of Other Backward Classes - Request for inclusion of Melakkarar in the State Other Backward Classes list - Recommendation of Kerala State Commission for Backward Classes accepted - orders issued.

SCHEDULED CASTES & SCI. TRIBES DEVELOPMENT (F) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 35/96/SCSTDD Thiruvananthapuram, Dated: 22.7.1996

Read:- D.O. letter No. 1535/C1/94/KSCBC dated 12.12.1995 from the Member Secretary, Kerala State Commission for Backward Classes, Thiruvananthapuram.

ORDER

The District Nadaswara Takil Thozhilali Association, Palakkad has submitted a representation dated 17.12.1994 to the Kerala State Commission for Backward Classes requesting that the 'Caste' "Melakkarar" be included in the Scheduled Castes or atleast in the Other Backward Classes for the purpose of employment reservation. It was stated in the representation that Melakkarar, Isai Vellalar and Chavalakkaran are one and the same that Melakkarar has been included in the Other Backward Classes list only for Educational Concessions, that Melakkarar and Isai Vellalar are not seen in the Other Backward Classes list for employment reservation, that members of the community are musicians who play on Nadaswara, Takil etc. The Commission has asked the Ananthakrishna Iyer International Centre for Anthropological Studies (AICAS), Palakkadu to undertake study on the request of the Association. After detailed study of the issue the Centre has submitted its report to the Commission.

The Commission examined the witnesses and documents produced by the Association, the evidence tendered by the representatives of the Association as witnesses during the hearings as well as the Study Report of the AICAS.

According to the AICAS report the Community traditionally engaged in playing Nadaswaram etc. consists of the following endogamous communities namely, Chavalakkaran, Ocha Vidurarayar and Isai Vellalar. 'Melakkarar', is a term used generically to include all these communities. After detailed examination of the request of the Association, the Commission found that the history of the community began from Tamilnadu. The community was considered as depressed and their traditional occupation was fishing which was considered as low and polluted.

But after settling in Kerala they succeeded in getting a higher social status with only limited polluting impact. temple musicians their social status improved. The Commission is backward from the educational point of view and for this reason finds a place in the Other Backward Classes list for educational concessions. According to the Commission the evidence in this case does not support the view that Melakkarar are so backward as to deserve reservation in terms of Article 16 (4) of the Constitution. The Commission advised Government under section 9 (1) of the Kerala State Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993 that the Melakkarar need not be included in the State Other Backward Classes list for reservation in public service.

Government after due consideration of the advice of the Commission order that the advice of the Commission above mentioned be accepted and they order accordingly.

By Order of the Governor,

M.S. JOSEPH
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY.


To

✓ The Member-Secretary, Kerala State Commission for Backward Classes, Thiruvananthapuram, ^{Mayapuzha Road, Pallem, Thiruvananthapuram}
Plamoodu High Road, Pallem, Thiruvananthapuram
The President, District Nadaswara Takil Thozhilali Association, Palakkadu.

The General Administration (SC) Department (vide item No.40 dated 11.7.1996).

SF/OC

Forwarded/ By Order


Section Officer