

**Agenda Note**      **Proposals received from Ministry of Tribal Affairs for Inclusion**  
**Item III**            **in/ exclusion from the list of Scheduled Tribes in relation to the**  
                              **States of Tamil Nadu, and Arunachal Pradesh.**

As per the procedure/ modalities prescribed by Government of India, only such case relating to inclusion in/ exclusion from in the list of Scheduled Tribes are referred to the Commission for its comments/ advice which are recommended by the respective State Govt. and duly supported by the Registrar General of India. A copy of the modalities is placed at **Appendix-II.1**. According to para (h) of the modalities, Claims recommended suo-moto by the National Commission would be referred to RGI and the State Governments. Depending on their responses, they would be disposed of in accordance with the modalities at (d) to (f) as may be applicable. Since large number of representations for inclusion/ exclusion of communities are received directly in the Commission, the same are forwarded to the Ministry for taking necessary action as per modalities. Commission, however, felt that the Ministry may not construe such communications from the Commission as recommendations of the Commission and, therefore, vide d.o. letter No. INC/EXE/01/ST-2005/SSW (ST) dated 14.10.2005 the Ministry of Tribal Affairs was informed that such representations sent by the Commission to the Ministry should not be treated as recommended by the Commission and that each such representation is to be considered carefully on its merit. It was also stated that the Chairperson of the Commission had observed that representations for inclusion of communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes after 50 years of independence are not justified at this stage and that those belonging to SC or OBC and already included in their respective Scheduled lists are trying to get included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. A copy of this letter dated 14.10.2005 dated is enclosed at **Appendix-II.2**.

2. The above mentioned modalities also provide sub-para (c) that while examining the cases referred to it, the Commission may associate expert individuals, organisation/ institutions in the fields of Anthropology, Ethnography and other social sciences, in addition to the State Govts. , Registrar General of India and Anthropology Survey of India, on a regional basis and may also consider holding public hearings in areas valiant to the claims under examination. It has however, been clarified that these cannot be binding in the Commission. Notwithstanding this position steps have been taken to evolve internal guidelines for dealing with the proposals for inclusion/ exclusion of communities received in the Commission (**Appendix- II.3**). These guidelines are at preparatory stage and are yet to be adopted by the Commission, but it is suggested that the following procedure be adopted by the Commission:

- (a) The opinion/comments from public (**supporters as well as opponents**) may be obtained. For this purpose, necessary **notices may be got published in the newspapers** and also put up on the website of the Commission. Thereafter, interested persons/associations may be called in the Commission for discussion. If necessary, a **public hearing** may also be held.
- (b) Recommendations of the State Government and RGI may be examined thoroughly. **Reasons for not inclusion in the ST list earlier may be ascertained.** Relevant data from 1931 Census and onwards may be scrutinized. If necessary, the concerned officers from the State Government and RGI may be called for a meeting in the Commission.
- (c) Report on the ethnographical survey, and case studies, if available, may be taken into account.

- (d) Opinion of experts in the field of Anthropology/Sociology may also be obtained if considered necessary.
- (e) If considered necessary, a study may be entrusted to some expert agency for determining the relative backwardness of the community.

3. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs have referred the following proposals for comments/ advice of the Commission.

**A. Inclusion of 'Malyali Gounder' without any area restriction in the Scheduled Tribes list of Tamilnadu.**

- i) The Govt. of Tamil Nadu have recommended for Inclusion of 'Malyali Gounder' without any area restriction in the Scheduled Tribes list of Tamilnadu
- ii). At present 'Malayali' community is included at Sl. No.25 (**only in Dharmapuri, North Arcot, Pudukottai, Salem, South Arcot and Tiruchirapali districts**) of the STs list of Tamil Nadu.
- iii). Secretary, Tribal Welfare Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu had earlier requested the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to include Erode Malayali community in the list of STs in Tamil Nadu vide their letter 07.11.2006. It was mentioned that the Malayali Tribal settlements were only in two Taluks (Satyamangalam & Bhavani) in Erode District. The total number of Malayali households in Erode district was 2875. The matter was referred by MTA to RGI for their advice/recommendation. The RGI inter-alia observed as follows vide their letter dated 12.01.2007.

"In the comments, it was also stated that the tribal Malayalis prefer to give their identity as Karlar or Karalar Gounder, while the neighbours call them Malayali Gounder or simple Malayalis. For this, an amendment in the list of STs of Tamil Nadu had been suggested for substituting Malayali by Karlar/Karalar Gounder/Malayali Gounder. The Lokur Committee (1965) had recommended substitution of Malayali by Malayali Gounder along with removal of area restriction. The Joint Committee (1967) had recommended to replace the entry Malayali by 'Malakkaran, Malayali'. The State Government's Study Report also states that at local level Malayali are referred to by others as 'Mlai Vellalar' and 'Malayali Gounder'. Also according to the Report, Malayali of Jawadhu hills of Thiruvannamali district are known by the term Karalar Gounder".

"The ethnographic information available on the contemporary Malayali/Malayali of Erode supports the views expressed in our earlier comments. We still hold the same view as was given in earlier comments and suggest an amendment in the list of STs of Tamil Nadu for replacement of Malayali by 'Karlar, Karalar Gounder, Malayali Gounder'. After such an amendment, the existing area restriction for the Malayali in Tamil Nadu may be relaxed to include Erode district also".

- iv). The above comments of the RGI were referred by MTA to the State Government of Tamil Nadu for justification. The State Government of Tamil Nadu vide their letter dated 20-6-07 has furnished their justification and recommended for inclusion of 'Malaiali' or 'Malayali Gounder' community in the list of STs of Tamil Nadu without any area restriction and it was again referred to the Office of the RGI for their view/comments.

- v). **This proposal was discussed in an emergent meeting taken by the Chairperson on 23.06.2008 in her Chamber which was attended by Vice-Chairman and both the Members of the Commission. It was unanimously agreed to accept the proposal of the State govt. of Tamil Nadu duly supported by the Office of Registrar General of India to include 'Malyali Gounder' without any area restriction in the list of Scheduled Tribes in respect of the State of Tamil Nadu to replace the existing entry 'Malyali' which is area specific.**
- B. Substitution of "Galo" in place of "Galong" at Sr. No. 5 in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Arunachal Pradesh.**

The State Govt of Arunachal Pradesh have requested replacement of 'Galong' with 'Galo' at S.No. 5 of ST list of Arunachal Pradesh. Registrar General of India has also recommended replacement of name with a view that Galo and Galong are synonym to each other and the word Galong has been derived from Galo by distortion. Details of the proposal are placed at **Appendix-II.4**