



राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

(भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 338क के अंतर्गत एक संवैधानिक निकाय)
(A constitutional body under Article 338A of the Constitution of India)

F.No NCST/SER-1604/MRLY/2/2024-SSW (RU-III)

Dated: - 21.02.2025

To,

The Chairman & CEO,
Railway Board,
Ministry of Railways
Rail Bhavan, New Delhi, 110001
Email Id: crb@rb.railnet.gov.in
Tel. No: 01123384010

Sub: Recognition of All India Scheduled Tribes Railway Employees Welfare Association - a representation dated 10.06.2024 from Shri D. Nataraju, General Secretary, All India Scheduled Tribes Railway Employees Welfare Association

महोदय/महोदया,

I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of the minutes of the sitting held on 10.02.2025 at 11:00 AM under the Chairmanship of Shri J. Hussain, Hon'ble Member, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) at NCST HQ, New Delhi on the above mentioned subject.

It is requested that the action taken/ to be taken in the matter may be submitted to NCST within stipulated time from receipt of the letter, for taking appropriate action.

Yours faithfully,

(एच .आर.मीना /H.R. Meena)
अनुसंधान अधिकारी / Research Officer
Phone -24641640

Copy for information:-

1. Shri D. Nataraju,
34 M.K.M Nagar, Dr. Ambedkar College Road
Vyasarpadi, Chennai-600039 (Tamil Nadu)
Mobile No:9440520182
2. PS to Hon'ble Member (JH), NCST
3. NIC, NCST for uploading on the website of the Commission.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES
NCST/SER-1604/MRLY/2/2024-SSW

Minutes of the Sitting held under the Chairmanship of Shri Jatothu Hussain, Hon'ble Member, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes at Lok Nayak Bhawan, New Delhi in the case of Shri D. Nataraju, General Secretary, All India Scheduled Tribe Railway Employees Welfare Association, Sullerupetta, Andhra Pradesh regarding creation of separate ST Association for ST employees of Indian Railways.

Date of the Sitting: 10/02/2025, 11:20AM
Participants in the Sitting: As per Annexure

Shri D. Nataraju, General Secretary, All India Scheduled Tribe Railway Employees Welfare Association, Sullerupetta, Andhra Pradesh vide his representation dated 10.6.2024 has stated that a separate recognition should be granted to the All India Scheduled Tribe Railway Employees Welfare Association (Regd. No. 31/2006), distinct from the existing All India SC/ST Railway Employees Association. He contends that various governmental bodies, including the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, and the Ministry of Social Justice, have recommended such recognition. The petitioner highlights that separate ministries and commissions exist for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and their cultural and socio-economic issues significantly differ. Despite persistent efforts since 2006, the association has not been accorded due recognition. Given the existence of distinct associations for OBCs and SCs in the railway sector, the petitioner argues that Scheduled Tribe employees, numbering approximately one lakh, should also be granted an independent platform to address their concerns effectively. Furthermore, he emphasizes that granting this recognition would not disrupt the administrative or financial structure of the Railways. Citing precedents from Port Trust, Neyveli Lignite Corporation, and Chennai Petrochemical Ltd., where separate ST associations have been recognized, the petitioner urges immediate approval to safeguard the welfare and rights of ST railway employees.

2. NCST vide notice dated 13.11.2024 has referred the matter to Chairman and CEO, Railway Board for seeking facts and comments within 15 days. Since no reply was received, hence, NCST decided to discuss the issue with the authority and the petitioner on 10.02.2025. Accordingly, a Sitting Notice was sent on 31.01.2025.

3. Chairman & CEO, Railway Board, New Delhi vide letter dated 7.2.2025 has requested for exemption and deputed the Executive Director / Estt. (Res.) to attend the sitting. In the sitting Executive Director / Estt. (Res.) and petitioner were present.

4. The petitioner reiterated their submissions and stated that a separate association for STs is necessary to present their demands and seek redressal of ST-specific issues in an appropriate manner. The officials from the Railway Board informed that this issue had been considered earlier and that it was decided to continue with a single association. The NCST inquired about the specific rules or laws that mandated the recognition of only a single association. However, the officials could not provide a satisfactory answer. The Commission informed the officials that establishing a separate ST association was extremely important to ensure that ST employees could articulate their demands clearly and fearlessly. In a combined association, ST employees, being fewer in number, do not receive adequate representation and are often unheard. Therefore, the Indian Railways may be considered to recognise a separate association for STs.

5. The Commission pointed out that the Government of India is well-wisher of the STs. Accordingly, in October 1999 had setup a separate ministry for Scheduled Tribes i.e. Ministry of Tribal Affairs (carved out of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment); in year 2004 under Article 338A setup a separate National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (by bifurcation of National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) and various organizations/schemes have been separated for welfare and advancement of Scheduled Tribes. Therefore, the demand of petitioner is justified as the employment and privileges of ST employees in the Railway stands on different footing vis-a-vis other class of employees.

जाटोतु हुसेन / Jatothu Hussain
सदस्य / Member
भारत सरकार / Government of India
राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
नई दिल्ली / New Delhi

6. After hearing both the sides, the following recommendation was made and action taken thereon may be submitted within 30 days from receipt of the minutes of the sitting. Thereafter, the further course of action will be decided by NCST.

- The Indian Railways may consider to recognise a separate association for ST employees.
- The representatives of ST Association Sri D Nataraju, Southern Railways, NV Ramaniah, South Central Railway, DS Ramakumar, Integrated Coach factory and Sri M.Hariram, CCI/CCM Railnilayam, Secunderabad who have attended for the hearing may be provided special casual leave and on the day of hearing and during travel to NCST.

(Jatothu Hussain)

Member

जाटोलु हुसेन / Jatothu Hussain

सदस्य / Member


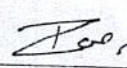
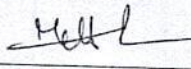
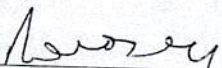

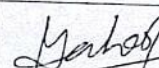
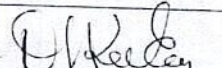
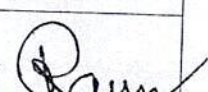
भारत सरकार / Government of India

राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

नई दिल्ली / New Delhi

List of participants of the sitting held on 10.02.2025 at 11:20 AM under the Chairmanship of Shri Jatothu Hussain, Hon'ble Member, NCST in the case of Shri D. Nataraju, General Secretary, All India Scheduled Tribes Railway Employees Welfare Association regarding recognition of All India Scheduled Tribes Railway Employees Welfare Association

Sr. No.	Name and Designation	Address & Phone No.	Signature
I	<u>National Commission for Scheduled Tribes</u>		
1.	Dr. P.K Reddy Director		
2.	NCST Officials		
II	<u>Railway Board</u>		
Sr. No.	Name and Designation	Address & Phone No.	Signature
1.	P.K. SAFFI ED E, RES, RMBD	888 2709285	
	Rajeev Meena	9717635977	
	M. Hanu Ram	9701370185	
	J. Lachi Ram Naik	9440960773	
	J. Subba Rayudu	9492936495	
III	<u>Petitioner</u>		
	MHAESH Meena	9413 851542	
	D. S Rama Kumar Ch. OS/ICF	7667718048	
	N. V. Ramonath	9154037338	
	D. NATARAJU	9440520182	