

>

Title: Need to include Narikoravan *alias* Kuruvikaran community in the Scheduled Tribes list in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): In Tamil Nadu, according to an NGO Survey, in 2009 among Narikoravan @ Kuruvikaran there are 8,280 families having population of about 40,000. The names Narikoravan, Narikuravan and Narikoravar represent one and the same community. Kurivikaran is an additional colloquial name of this community in Tamil Nadu due to one of their traditional occupations of 'trapping birds, especially sparrows' (Kurivi in Tamil denotes sparrow). Narikoravan, a nomadic community by tradition, constitute the most deprived sections of all the communities in the State, living under extremely poor and unhygienic conditions in the outskirts of villages/towns.

Government of Tamil Nadu has initially recommended for inclusion of Narikoravan alias Kuruvikaran in the ST list in Tamilnadu. The Lokkur Committee (formed to review the SC/ST list) in 1965 had also recommended for the inclusion of Narikoravan alias Kuruvikaran in the ST list of Tamil Nadu. In the year 1981, the Registrar General of India had agreed for inclusion of "Narikoravan grouped with Kurivikaran" in ST list in Tamil Nadu on the lines of recommendations of the expert bodies. Later in 1987, Department of Adi- Dravidar and Scheduled Tribes Welfare in Tamilnadu wrote to the Government of India to include "Narikorava" in the ST list and they did not include Kuruvikaran. Government of India saw the inconsistency in the recommendations of Tamil Nadu Government and did not pursue the matter. In 2006, Tamil Nadu Backward Class Commission reported that Narikoravan and Kuruvikaran both are the same. National Commission of Scheduled Tribes, in its guidelines to issue ST certificates, in 2005-06 had stated that Nakkala (Fox Hunter) alias Kuruvikaran (Bird Hunter) in Andhra Pradesh should be identified as ST and that in Karnataka, they are called as Akkipikki and in Tamil Nadu, they are called as Narikoravan @ Kurivikaran and that they all speak a dialect and in that dialect, they are called Vaghirivala. Again Ooty Tribal Research Centre, 2011 recommended that Narikoravan and Kuruvikaran are one and the same and possess all the five characteristics of Scheduled Tribes.

Keeping in view of above, I humbly urge upon the Union Government to kindly include Narikoravan alias Kuruvikaran community in the Scheduled Tribes List in Tamil Nadu at the earliest as both are one and the same.