

From

The Addl. Chief Secretary (SJ&E) to the  
Government of Himachal Pradesh

To

1. All the Administrative Secretaries to the Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.
2. All the Divisional Commissioners in Himachal Pradesh.
3. All the Heads of Departments in Himachal Pradesh.
4. All the Deputy Commissioners in Himachal Pradesh.
5. All the Sub Divisional Officers (Civil) in Himachal Pradesh.
6. All the Chairmen/Managing Directors/Registrars/  
Secretaries of various Boards/Corporations/Universities  
Etc. in Himachal Pradesh.

Dated Shimla-02, the 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2026

*Vish*  
Subject: -

Avoidance of the terms like Harijan and Girijan in respect of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in official matters, dealings etc. -Regarding.

*DIP*  
Madam/Sir,

*Dhruv/A*  
I am directed to refer to Government of India, Ministry of Welfare (now Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment), Department of Welfare, letter No.12025/14/90-SCD (R.L.Cell) dated 16.08.1990 (copy enclosed), addressed to all State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

1. It has been observed therein that the terms "Harijan" and "Girijan" are still being used by certain State authorities in official correspondence and related matters. In this regard, it was reiterated that the Constitution of India does not use these expressions for denoting Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
2. The matter has been reviewed by the Government and it has come to notice that several Departments have not adhered to the aforesaid instructions dated 16.08.1990. All Departments are, therefore, directed to strictly comply with the Government of India's instructions and to discontinue the use of the terms "Harijan" and "Girijan" in all official matters.
3. Further, it is advised not to use the term "Harijan" in any form or manner, keeping in view its inappropriate and non-constitutional usage, and to use the term "Scheduled Caste" instead. Similarly, the term "Scheduled Tribe" shall be used in place of "Girijan".
4. It is also requested that in the names of Departments which are in overall charge of the development and welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, wherever terms like "Harijan" and "Girijan" are used, the constitutional terms "Scheduled Castes" and "Scheduled Tribes" may be substituted accordingly.
5. These instructions may be brought to the notice of all concerned authorities for ensuring strict compliance in letter and spirit.

*SM/Pr*  
Managing Director

Director (P)

Director (F)

Director (E)

Director (C)

Diary No. 3167

Dated: 18/1/26

Yours faithfully,

*(Signature)*

(Dr. Gopal Krishan)

Under Secretary (SJ & Emp.) to the  
Government of Himachal Pradesh

*Endorse to all including division office*  
Endst No. As above

Dated Shimla-2 the 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2025

Copy is forwarded to the Director, Empowerment of SCs, OBCs, Minorities & Specially Aabled, SDA Complex Kasumpti Shimla-171009 w.r.t. his letter No. ESOMSA-SCDP (D.32-LOW)2-1/2025-II-22726 dated 29/12/2025 for information and necessary action.

*(Signature)*

Dr. Gopal Krishan

Under Secretary (SJ & Emp.) to the  
Government of Himachal Pradesh

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# Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited

(A State Government Undertaking)

Himfed Building, BCS, New Shimla, Shimla-171009.

Phone: 0177-2670633, Fax No.: 0177-2671589

CIN:U40101HP2006SGC030591

No. HPPCL/P&A/PRM/ GoHP Instructions/2025-20518-35 Dated: 21.02.26

Copy of the above letter No. SJE-B-F/1/2025-288840 dated 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2026, received from the Under Secretary (SJ & Emp.) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh, is forwarded to the following for information & further necessary action, please.

Smt. (IT)

- ✓ 1. All the HoPs/ HoDs in HPPCL.
2. Liaison Officer, for reservation matters for SCs/STs/OBCs and other reserved Categories. HPPCL, Corporate Office, Shimla.
3. Notice Board.

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Deputy General Manager (P&A)

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Deputy General Manager (P&A)

No. BC. 12025/14/90-SCD (R.L.Cell)  
Government of India/Bharat Sarkar  
Ministry of Welfare /Kalyan Mantralaya  
Department of Welfare /Kalyan Vibhag

*Shastri Bhawan, A-Wing,  
New Delhi dated 16th August, 1990.*

To  
The Chief Secretaries to  
All State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

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 10-2-1982 addressed to all the State Governments/U.T Administrations in which a request was made to issue instructions to the certificate issuing authorities not to insert the word 'Harijan' and 'Girijan' in the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe certificates, but to mention only the name of the caste/tribe to which the person belongs. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was also requested vide letter No.12025/44/80-SC&BCD.I/IV, dated 1-2-1982 to use the terms 'Scheduled Castes' and 'Scheduled Tribe' instead of 'Harijan' and 'Girijan' respectively in English and their appropriate translations 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 19-10-1982 to the erst-while 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 Castes and Scheduled Tribes that many State Governments/U.T Administrations use the words 'Harijan' and 'Girijan' in official matters, 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 Governmental 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/Union territory 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.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-  
(MATA PRASAD)  
Additional Secretary to the Government of India

No. BC. 12025/14/90-SCD (R.L.Cell)

*Dated 16th August, 1990.*

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:-

1. Secretary, Union Public Service Commission, New Delhi
2. Secretary, Staff Selection Commission, CGO Complex, Block No.12, Lodi Road, New Delhi.
3. All the Ministries/Departments, Government of India
4. Secretary, National Commission for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, Lok Nayak Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. Commissioner for Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes, R.K. Puram, New Delhi.
6. Comptroller & Auditor General of India, New Delhi
7. Election of India, New Delhi
8. All Sections in SCD Division/T.D. Division, New Delhi
9. All Officers in the Ministry of Welfare, New Delhi.

Sd/-  
(MATA PRASAD)  
Additional Secretary to the Government of India