

No. 1/7/2008-RC-1/410

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
DEPARTMENT OF WELFARE
(RESERVATION CELL)

To

All the Deputy Commissioners,
All the Sub Divisional Magistrates (C), and
All the Tehsildars
in the State of Punjab.

Dated, Chandigarh the 13.3.2008

Subject: Regarding incorporating of word 'SIKH' in the Caste/Religion Certificates.

Sir,

I am directed to invite your attention on the subject noted above and to inform you that the Army Recruitment Office, Headquarter Recruiting Zone (Punjab and J& K), Jalandhar Cantt. has pointed out the problem which the Army is facing regarding recruitment of Sikhs in the Army under Sikh Category vacancies. It has been mentioned that recruitment in the Army is Caste/Regiment based. The Caste Certificates issued, for example, to "Jats", "Ramdasias" or "Majhbis" do not mention the word "Sikh" with it as a result of which "Sikh Jats", "Sikh Ramdasias" and "Sikh Majhbis" etc. are not recruited against Sikh Category vacancies in which the chances of selection are bright because of limited competition but they are recruited against "All India All Class" category where the competition is among these castes from all States as a result of which the merit is very high. Owing to this, eligible Sikh candidates of Punjab are being deprived of their legitimate right of selection against their own Sikh Category vacancies.

2. Depletion of the strength of Punjabis, in general, and Sikhs, in particular, in the Army is a cause of concern. One of the reasons as pointed out by the Director Recruiting is purely technical as the Certificates do not mention the word "Sikh". It is, therefore, considered necessary to mention word "Sikh" as Prefix or Suffix in the Caste Certificate so that eligible Sikh candidates do not suffer and the Army could enroll the Sikh candidates as per their own religion/caste. In view of this you are requested to ensure that:-

- i) Whenever, any person applies to the Competent Authority for giving a Caste and Religion Certificate for the purpose of recruitment in the Army, he be given Caste and Religion Certificate, of course, after proper verification. For example, "Jat" who may also be a "Sikh" may be given a Certificate "Jat Sikh";

- ii) For persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, the castes like “Ramdasia”, “Ravidasia”, “Majhbi” as also “Ramdasia Sikh”, “Ravidasia Sikh” and “Majhbi Sikh” etc. are Scheduled Castes. In this case also, wherever the Caste Certificate is to be issued, the word “Sikh” may also be added if the person concerned, after due verification, is a Sikh. For other castes where the Scheduled Castes do not include the word “Sikh”, a separate Certificate of religion may be given after due verification. Wherever Caste Certificate has already been issued and a person applies for his Religion Certificate, the same may also be issued after due verification.
- iii) For all other castes also like Backward Classes i.e. Tarkhans, Lohars etc., a certificate of religion alongwith Caste Certificate or a separate Religion Certificate be given.

3. Strict compliance of these instructions may be ensured.

Under Secretary Welfare

Endst. No. 1/7/2008-RC-I/411

Dated, Chandigarh, the 13.3.2008

A copy is forwarded to Col. D.K. Bishnoi, SM, Director Recruiting, Recruiting Office, Headquarter Recruiting Zone (Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir), Jalandhar Cantt. 144008 with reference to his demi-official letter No. R/3/Rect Rally/2008, dated 7.2.2008 to the address of the worthy Chief Secretary to Government Punjab, for information.

Under Secretary Welfare

Endst. No. 1/7/2008-RC-I/412

Dated, Chandigarh, the 13.3.2008

A copy is forwarded to the Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Punjab for kind information of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Under Secretary Welfare

Endst. No. 1/7/2008-RC-I/413

Dated, Chandigarh, the 13.3.2008

A copy is forwarded to the Secretary to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Punjab for kind information of the Chief Secretary.

Under Secretary Welfare