

Speed post



भारत सरकार

Government of India

राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जन जाति आयोग

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

(A Constitutional Body set up under Art. 338A of the Constitution of India)

File No. SS/2/2019/MFIN8/SEHRMT/RU-IV

Dated: 13.05.2019

To,

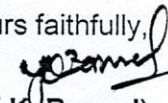
The Managing Director & CEO,
Central Bank of India,
"Chander Mukhi",
Nariman Point,
Mumbai – 400 021 (Maharashtra).

Sub: Proceedings of the sitting taken by Hon'ble Chairperson, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) on 07.05.2019 in the matter of Shri S. Sankarappa, AGM, Employee No. 047831, Central Bank of India, Regional Office, Delhi South, Karol Bagh, New Delhi regarding harassment on caste grounds and revocation of suspension.

Sir,

I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of the Proceedings of the Sitting held on 07.05.2019 under the Chairmanship of Shri Nand Kumar Sai, Hon'ble Chairperson, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes on the above mentioned subject for necessary action and submission of compliance report to this Commission within 10 days for placing the same before the Hon'ble Chairperson, NCST.

Yours faithfully,


(Y.K. Bansal)
Research Officer
Ph. 24645826

Copy to:

Shri S. Sankarappa,
Assistant General Manager,
Central Bank of India,
Regional Office, Delhi South,
3rd Floor, Sorabji Bhawan, Plot No. 4,
Block No. 54, Desbandhu Gupta Marg,
Karol Bagh, New Delhi – 110 005.



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ISSUED

Copy to: - GAS NIC, NCST.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES

Case File No. SS/2/2019/MFIN8/SEHRMT/RU-IV

PROCEEDINGS OF SITTING HELD ON 07.05.2019 CHAIRED BY SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI, HON'BLE CHAIRPERSON, NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES (NCST) IN THE CASE OF SHRI SANKARAPPA, ASSITANT GENERAL MANAGER, CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA, RO, DELHI SOUTH, KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI REGARDING HIS HARASSMENT ON CASTE GROUNDS AND IMPOSITION OF HARSH PUNISHMENT OF SUSPENSION.

List of officers present in sitting is Annexed.

Date of Sitting – 07.05.2019

The petitioner Shri Sankarappa, Deputy Regional Manager (in the rank of AGM, Scale-V), Central Bank of India, RO, Delhi South, Karol Bagh, New Delhi vide his representation dated 19.01.2019 has submitted the grievances regarding his harassment on caste grounds and imposition of harsh punishment of suspension.

He alleged that the Bank had served him a Memo dated 02.01.2019 and put him under suspension with immediate effect on the grounds of serious lapses/disbursement/monitoring of advances during his tenure as Chief Manager at Bhimavaram Branch under Vijayawada Regional Office from 11.05.2015 to 18.04.2016. The Bank has alleged that the most of borrowal accounts/assets were not created in some cases, collateral securities taken had found to be fake and frauds have been reported involving amount of 6.38 crores and thus exposing the Bank to huge financial risk. In this regard he was issued a Memo dated 06.09.2018 for seeking clarification.

In response to the Banks allegation, he submitted his clarification on 02.11.2018 and requested the Bank management to exonerate him from the charges as he has adopted all due procedure to sanction the loan. He was transferred from Bhimavaram Branch to New Delhi on 18.04.2016. In addition, during his tenure, he had sanctioned part loan and thereafter his transfer, the balance loan amount was released by his successor officer. But, the Bank has initiated action only against him and left other officers. Only he was suspended and other Officers involved in this case were not suspended. Moreover, during his tenure of 11 months at Bhimavaram Branch, he doubled the Branch business, improved deposits and advances targets. There are many officers belonging to general category, who committed serious lapses and incurred huge loss to the Bank. But, the Bank management did not take any action against them so far. He is also going to retired in the month of May, 2019. He requested the Commission to revoke his suspension with release of all due salary and drop all the charges levelled against him.

2. NCST vide notice dated 07.03.2019 sought a report from the MD & CEO, Central Bank of India, Mumbai. In response from the Commission's notice, the Bank has reported that while working as Branch Manager at Bhimavaram Branch from 27.04.2015 to 18.04.2016, a complaint dated 02.08.2018 regarding serious irregularities/fraud in advances portfolio against Bhimavaram Branch was received and the same was investigated by the Special Audit of the Branch. The investigating officer observed irregularities in securities in accounts and sanctioning/disbursing Fishery loans sanctioned by the petitioner Shri Sankarappa. Subsequently, in December, 2018 another complaint against Bhimavaram Branch was received by Chief Vigilance Officer, Central

Office, Mumbai from CBI, Visakhapatnam. The complaint was made by land owners and farmers of Bhimavaram, whose lands were shown as leased to borrowers by the Bank through fake lease deeds. The matter was investigated by the Vigilance Department and the Investigating Officer concluded that during the tenure of the petitioner, many Fish Tank Loans were sanctioned without observing laid down policies and norms of the Bank. Thus, it was found that Shri Sankarappa has abused his official position.

In view of this, the Bank has initiated action against him. Apart from this, Departmental action has initiated against 3 other staff members viz. Shri H. Nagaraj, Chief Manager, Shri J.B. Gangadharan, Manager and Shri G.V.K.L Narayana, Cashier for the lapses committed by them while working at Bhimavaram Branch. It is also observed that the petitioner is habitual offender and in the past, he was awarded major punishment for lapses committed by them while working as Branch Manager, Mango Market Branch, Vijayawada. In addition, during the posting at Delhi office, two Memo was also issued.

The Central Bank vide another letter dated 22.04.2019 has informed the Commission that the Bank has assigned the job of investigation into the allegations raised by the petitioner to the General Manager level officer. The Investigation report is yet to be received.

3. Since the Bank's report was found to be unsatisfactory and therefore, the Hon'ble Chairperson, NCST fixed a sitting on 07.05.2019 to have a discussion with the Managing Director and CEO, Central Bank of India in the matter.

4. As per schedule, the Sitting was held on 07.05.2019. The Managing Director and CEO, Central Bank of India, vide its letter dated 02.05.2019 has requested exemption from the appearance and deputed the General Manager (HRD), Central Bank to present the case in the Commission. The same was taken into record. Accordingly, Shri V.K. Singh, General Manager (HRD), Central Bank of India appeared. The petitioner was also present.

5. In sitting, the petitioner submitted that he was put under suspension vide Central Bank of India's Memo letter No. RO(South)/HRD/DAD/2018-19/595 dated 02.01.2019 on the charges of the lapse/irregularities in the sanction/disbursement of advances during his tenure as Chief Manager at Bhimavaram Branch (under Regional Office, Vijayawada) from 11.05.2015 to 18.04.2016. No chargesheet was issued against him in the case. He had already submitted his explanation sought by the Bank vide reply dated 02.11.2018. In addition, no suspension order was served to other two Bank officials involved in the case. He had sanctioned and disbursed part loan amount after verification of the borrower's documents and assets and also there is no loss to the Bank. He was transferred to Delhi 3 years back and away more than 2000 K.M. from the Branch. He is also not in a position to influence the departmental inquiry. He is going to be retired in the month of May, 2019 and he was harassed by way of suspending him for the lapses happened in the year 2016 to withhold the retirement benefits and also without conducting any departmental proceedings. He prayed to the Commission to revoke his suspension and release salary so that he could gracefully retired from service.

6. The General Manager (HRD), Central Bank of India reported that a General Manager Level Officer has been appointed to look into the petitioner's grievances. However, the petitioner's suspension was made on the grounds of the complaints of irregularities/lapses received from the borrower side. The investigation of the case is under progress. The other Bank officials involved in this case also issued chargesheet.

7. The case was discussed in detail. The Commission observed that it is serious case of harassment with a Schedule Tribe officer wherein without issuing any chargesheet, he was put under suspension at the time of his retirement in May, 2019. Other officials involved in this case was also not served any suspension order. He was also not paid his due salary. It appears that the petitioner has been harassed, so that he could not get retirement benefits and also could not gracefully retired. However, after intervention of the Commission, the General Manager (HRD), Central Bank of India vide its letter dated 07.05.2019 gave in writing that the Bank's Central office, Mumbai will consider to revoke the suspension of petitioner, Shri S. Sankarappa after due process and Committee's report within 10 days and will appraise the development of the matter within stipulated time. The Commission recommends as follow:

- The Central Bank of India Management will revoke the petitioner's suspension with immediate effect and will also release his due full salary within a period of seven days.
- The departmental inquiry initiated against the petitioner will be conducted without any prejudice and biased manner and defence opportunities including natural justice will be provided to the petitioner.
- It may also ensure that no injustice should be meted out against the petitioner on the caste ground and no further harassment should be made against the petitioner.
- An action taken report on the Commission's recommendations should be submitted to the Commission within 10 days from the receipt of the proceedings.

7/5/19
नन्द कुमार साय/Nand Kumar Sai
अध्यक्ष/Chairman
राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जातों आयोग
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
भारत सरकार/Govt. of India
नई दिल्ली/New Delhi

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES

Annexure

(File No. SS/2/2019/MFIN8/SEHRMT/RU-IV)

List of participants

NCST

1. Shri Nand Kumar Sai, Hon'ble Chairperson (In chair)
2. Miss Anusuiya Uikey, Hon'ble Vice-Chairperson
3. Shri Hari Krishna Damor, Hon'ble Member
4. Shri A.K. Singh, Secretary,
5. Shri S.K. Ratho, Joint Secretary
6. Shri P.T. Jameskutty, Deputy Secretary
7. Shri Y.K. Bansal, Research Officer
8. Shri Sudhir Atram, PA to Hon'ble Member (MCI)

Officers of Central Bank of India

Shri V.K. Singh, General Manager (HRD)

Petitioner

Shri Sankarappa