



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY  
NAGPUR BENCH, NAGPUR.

WRIT PETITION NOS. 5892, 1039 & 8007 OF 2018

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WRIT PETITION NO. 5892 OF 2018

**PETITIONER** : Nikhil S/o Dharmraj Ghodmare, Aged about 25 yrs., Occu.: Service, R/o Sillewara, Chandni Chowk, Qtr. No.270, Tah. Saoner, Distt. Nagpur.

-Versus-

**RESPONDENT** : 1. The Vice-Chairman/Member Secretary, Scheduled Tribe Caste Certificate Scrutiny Committee, Adiwasi Vikas Bhavan, Giripeth, Nagpur.

2. The General Manager, Maharashtra State Power Generation Co.Ltd., Estralla Batteries Expansion Building, Dharavi Road, Matunga (East), Mumbai-400019.

3. The Chief General Manager (GEN), Maharashtra State Power Generation Co.Ltd., Thermal Power Station, Khaparkheda, Distt. Nagpur-441102.

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Ms Preeti Rane, Adv. for the petitioner.  
Ms H.N.Jaipurkar, AGP for the respondent No.1.  
Mr.C.A.Mohgaonkar, Adv.for the respondent Nos.2 & 3.  
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**WRIT PETITION NO. 1039 OF 2018**

**PETITIONER** : Shrikant S/o Krushnaji Ghodmare, Age 31 years, Occu.: Service, R/o Plot No.53, Shriram Nagar, Ring Road, Nagpur.

**-Versus-**

**RESPONDENT** :

1. Scheduled Tribe Certificate Scrutiny Committee, Nagpur, through its Chairman, Committee for Scheduled Tribe Claims, Office at Adivasi Vikas Bhawan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Giripeth, Nagpur, Tq. and Distt. Nagpur.
2. State of Maharashtra, through its Secretary, Tribal Development Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai-32.
3. The Manager, Bank of India, Nagpur Zonal Office, Nagpur Zone-I, Human Resources Department, Bank of India Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, S.V.Patel Marg, Nagpur-440 001.
4. Sub-Divisional Officer, Ramtek, Tahsil Ramtek, District Nagpur.
5. The Collector, Nagpur, Office at Collectorate Premises, Civil Lines, Nagpur.

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 Mr. P. P. Dhok, Adv. for the petitioner.  
 Ms H.N.Jaipurkar, AGP for the respondent Nos.1, 2, 4 & 5.  
 Mr.T.Y.Sharif, Adv. h/f Mr.A.T.Purohit, Adv.for the respondent No.3.  
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**WRIT PETITION NO. 8007 OF 2018**

**PETITIONER** : Lalita D/o Krushnarao Ghodmare, Aged about 35 yrs., Occu.: Service, R/o Plot No.53, Shriram Nagar, Udaynagar Ring Road, Nagpur.

**-Versus-**

- RESPONDENT** :
1. The Vice-Chairman/Member Secretary, Scheduled Tribe Caste Certificate Scrutiny Committee, Adiwasi Vikas Bhavan, Giripeth, Nagpur.
  2. The Zilla Parishad, Nagpur, Through its Chief Executive Officer.
  3. The District Health Officer, Zilla Parishad, Nagpur.
  4. The Medical Officer, Primary Health Centre, Gumthala, Tah. Kamptee, Distt. Nagpur.

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Ms Preeti Rane, Adv. for the petitioner.  
Ms H.N.Jaipurkar, AGP for the respondent No.1.  
Mr.Sheikh Majid, Adv.for the respondent Nos.2 to 4.  
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**CORAM: SMT. M. S. JAWALKAR &  
NANDESH S. DESHPANDE, JJ.**

**CLOSED ON : 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026  
PRONOUNCED ON : 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2026**

**J U D G M E N T (Per : Smt. M. S. Jawalkar, J.)**

Heard.

2. **Rule.** Rule is made returnable forthwith. Heard finally with the consent of the learned counsel for the parties.
3. Since common issue regarding invalidation of caste

certificates of the petitioners is involved in all the petitions and the petitioners are related to each other, the same are decided by this common judgment.

4. By these petitions, the petitioners are challenging the impugned orders passed by the Scrutiny Committee, thereby invalidating the caste claims of the petitioners belonging to 'Mana' Scheduled Tribe and seeking issuance of validity certificates in their favour.

5. The petitioner in Writ Petition No.1039 of 2018 challenges the provisions of section 6(1) of the Maharashtra Scheduled Caste & Tribe, Denotified Tribes (Vimukta Jatis), Nomadic Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Special Backward Categories (Regulation of Issuance & Verification of) Caste Certificate Act, 2000 and Rule 9 of the Maharashtra Scheduled Tribes (Regulation of Issuance and Verification of Certificates Rules, 2003.

6. In all these petitions, the petitioners are in service under different departments. All the petitioners belong to Mana Scheduled Tribe. Their caste certificates were forwarded to the Scrutiny Committee for verification. After the proposals were received, the Scrutiny Committee directed the vigilance enquiry and after

considering the vigilance report and the replies were filed by the respective petitioners, the Scrutiny Committee by the impugned orders invalidated the caste claims of the petitioners on the ground of lack of documentary evidence, affinity test and area restriction.

7. Since the issue involved in these petitions is same, brief facts are taken from Writ Petition No.5892 of 2018 as a lead petition. It is contended by the petitioner that he was selected on merits as Technician-III on the post reserved for Scheduled Tribe Category and was appointed on the establishment of respondent Nos.2 and 3 vide appointment order dated 18/02/2016. The petitioner submitted proposal along with necessary documents amongst which pre-independence documents are enlisted as under:

Sr. No.	Type of Document	Name on the document	Relation with the petitioner	Tribe	Date
1.	Extract of Bandobast Misal	Dolya s/o Raoji Mana	Great grandfather	Mana	1912-13
2.	Extract of Kotwal Panji (Birth)	Shrawan s/o Tanba Mana	Great grandfather	Mana	25/11/1947
3.	Extract of birth register	Urkuda s/o Rujya Mana	Cousin great grandfather	Mana	28/01/1943
4.	Extract of birth register	Mahadeo S/o Dolba	Cousin grandfather	Mana	29/06/1948

8. The Vigilance Cell procured the documents of 1947, 1948 and 1943 in which Mana entry is shown. The Vigilance Cell relied on the following adverse documents:

Sr. No.	Type of Document	Name on the document	Relation with the petitioner	Tribe	Date
1.	Extract of Dakhal Kharij	Maroti Mahadeo Dolba	Relation not mentioned	Mani	1953
2.	Document P-1	Dolya s/o Raoji	Great great grandfather	Mani – Kunbi	–
3.	Document P-1	Dolya s/o Raoji	Relation not mentioned	Mani – Kunbi	1913-14

9. The petitioner contended that the documents of pre-independence era depicting the entry as “Mana” have greatest probative value in the eyes of law and by considering the said documents, the Scrutiny Committee ought to have granted validity certificate to the petitioner. The other ground for invalidating the caste claim is affinity test. The petitioner contended that the affinity test is not a litmus test and the petitioner has duly established his relationship with the persons mentioned in the documents of pre-independence era. Insofar as adverse finding on area restriction of respective petitioner is concerned, it is apparent that after 1976 exercise of removal of area restriction, said aspect loses its relevance. The learned counsel for the petitioner contended that The committee

has not come across any material which shows that caste "Mana" has been shown either by interpolation or tampering the document. The petitioner further contended that validity certificates were issued to his blood relatives namely Chandrakant and Kishor Ghodmare by the same Scrutiny Committee on 31/03/2009, annexed to the petition at Annexures 8 & 9. In spite of this position, the Scrutiny Committee relied upon the documents, which have no probative value, since the said documents are of post independence era. The Scrutiny Committee invalidated the caste claims of the petitioners erroneously. Therefore, the orders impugned are liable to be quashed and set aside.

10. In regard to the challenge to the provisions of section 6 of the Act of 2000 and Rule 9 of Rules, 2003 in Writ Petition No.1039 of 2018 are concerned, the learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that the State Government has not followed and ignored the guidelines issued by the Hon'ble Apex Court in **Madhuri Patil's** case reported in **AIR 1995 SC 94** as to how Scrutiny Committee should be constituted. It is also submitted by the learned counsel for the petitioner that Rule 9 of the Rules of 2003 is not inconsistent with the guidelines and in the judgment of Hon'ble Apex Court in Madhuri Patil's case (supra). The State Government is not entitled to take contrary view which would challenge the judgment of Hon'ble Apex

Court. Therefore, the said provisions are unfair, ineffective and violative of fundamental rights of the petitioner and cannot be allowed to remain in the Statute and it would be violation of provisions of Constitution of India. In view of this position, the respondent-Scrutiny Committee cannot exercise the powers without procedure and without legal sanction.

11. The learned counsel for the petitioner has relied on following citations in support of their claim:

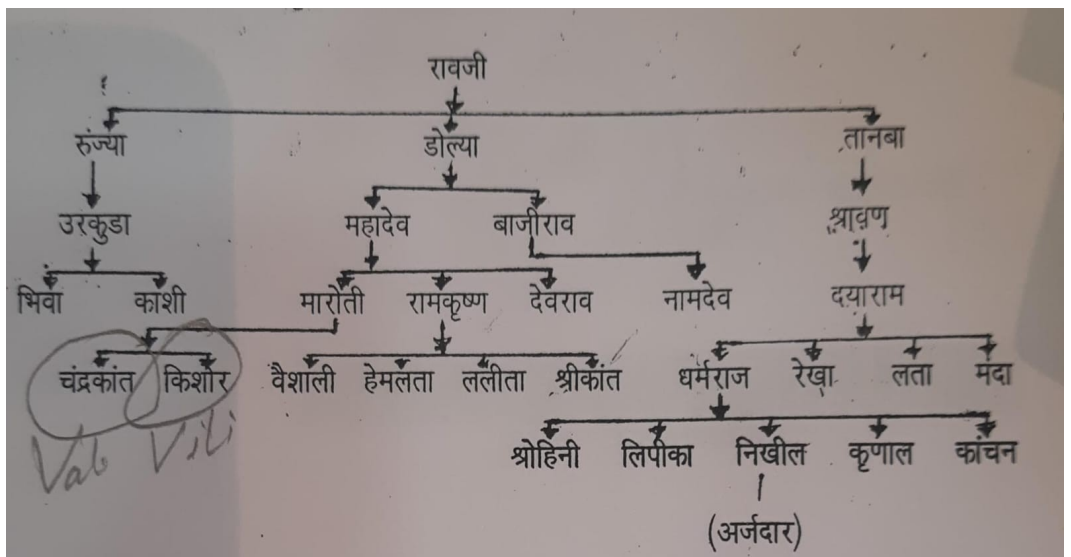
- (i) **Gitesh s/o Narendra Ghormare v. Scheduled Tribe Certificate Scrutiny Committee, Nagpur and others, 2018(4) Mh.L.J. 933.**
- (ii) Judgment in **Writ Petition No.5171 of 2018** (*Mrunali d/o Shamrao Wakade v. The Vice-Chairman/Member Secretary, Scheduled Tribe Caste Certificate Scrutiny Committee, Gadchrioli and others*) and other connected matters, dated 30/08/2018.
- (iii) Judgment in **Writ Petition No.5481 of 2018** (*Manisha D/o Pundlik Dadmal v. The Vice-Chairman/Member Secretary, Scheduled Tribe Caste Certificate Scrutiny Committee, Gadchrioli and others*), dated 30/08/2018.
- (iv) **Kumari Madhuri Patil v. Additional Commissioner, AIR 1995 SC 94.**
- (v) **Rohit Ranjeetsingh Rathod v. State of Maharashtra, 2010 (2) Mh.L.J. 384.**

12. *Per contra*, the learned AGP has taken us through the impugned order and contended that the entry of Mana Kunbi exists in the documents procured by the Vigilance Cell and hence mention of

caste as Mana in old documents is not determinative. The learned AGP submits that in spite of caste Mana being mentioned, the affinity test is necessary and therefore, affinity test will conclusively establish that the petitioner does not belong to “Mana” Scheduled Tribe. She submits that the impugned orders are just, proper and reasonable and therefore no interference is required. In support of her case, the learned AGP relied on the judgment in **Writ Petition No.2871 of 2024** (*Sakshi D/o Govindrao Narnaware v. The Scheduled Tribe Caste Certificate Scrutiny Committee, Nagpur*), dated 09/09/2024.

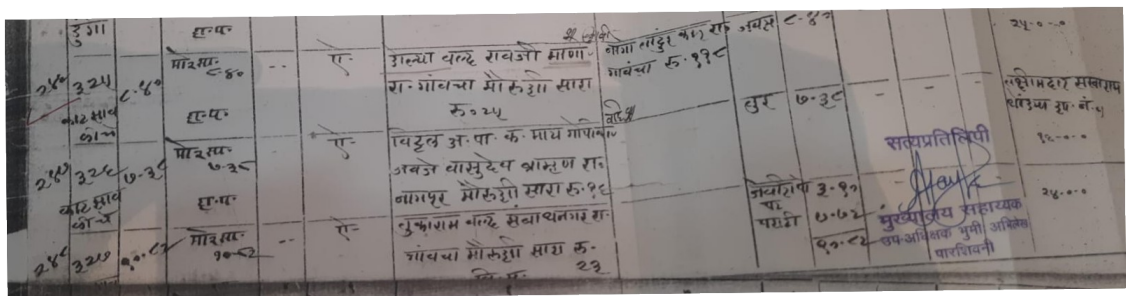
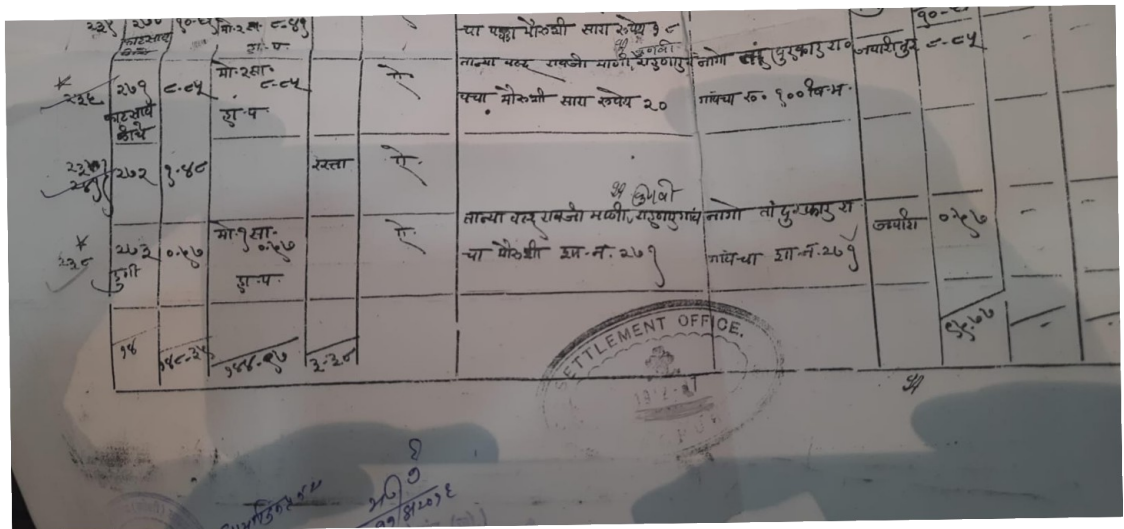
13. Heard submissions of both the parties at length and examined the documents and authorities relied upon by their respective counsel.

14. For the sake of convenience, family tree is reproduced as under:



15. Admittedly, the document pertaining to Shraavan s/o Tanba Mana of 1947 as well as documents pertaining to Urkuda s/o Rujya Mana of 1943 and Mahadeo s/o Dolba Mana of 1948 were duly verified by the Vigilance Cell. On perusal of the report of Vigilance Cell as mentioned above, all the documents of 1947, 1948 and 1943 showing "Mana" entry were duly verified by the Vigilance Cell. There is remark by the Vigilance Cell that there is overwriting in the entry "Mana". However, in the entry in respect of documents pertaining to Ramkrushna Mahadeo Dolba and Kaushi Urkuda Rujya, we have minutely perused the documents from the record, it appears that in both the documents there is entry of 'Mana' and there appears no overwriting. So far as other documents showing entry of 'Mani' are post 1950. Similarly, the petitioner has placed on record P-1 of 1912-17, wherein Tanya S/o Raoji Mani entry is there. However, it appears that above that entry, there is mention of 'Kunbi' with initials. At any rate, this entry of 'Kunbi' is not made at the instance of the petitioner because by inserting 'Kunbi', the petitioners or their forefathers were not going to get any benefit. Why this entry of 'Kunbi' is there and who has made the same, is not explained by the Committee. Admittedly, it is in a different ink and there appears to be initials against that entry of 'Kunbi'. This fact is duly noted by the Scrutiny Committee, but not explained. The Bandobast Misal i.e. P-1 of

1912-17 in respect of Dolya s/o Raoji shown as 'Mana'. The entries in the documents of 1947, 1948 and 1943 showing caste as "Mana". So far as P-1 Extract in respect of Tanya s/o Raoji of 1912-17, the Committee has observed that above the word 'Mani', there is word written as 'Kunbi' by different ink. Similarly, P-1 Extract in respect of Dolya s/o Raoji of 1913-14, 'Kunbi' word is written above the word 'Mana'. For the sake of convenience, the portion where 'Kunbi' word inserted in Extracts of P-1 of 1912-17 are reproduced as under:



16. We have minutely perused the documents of 1943 in respect of Urkuda Rujya blessed with daughter Kaushi. However, we have not seen any overwriting or scoring or interpolation in the said

document. The Scrutiny Committee accepted the document of 1947. The observation made by the Scrutiny Committee that in Revenue Record there is overwriting or scoring in the entry of caste is totally erroneous. If the word 'Mani', 'Mana' was written by scoring 'Kunbi' entry, one can understand the same. However, here above the word 'Mana' somebody has written 'Kunbi'. The petitioners or their forefathers by doing such insertion of entry 'Kunbi' are not getting any benefit, nor they have any access to the said record to make such insertion. At any rate, there is no overwriting, nor any scoring nor any interpolation at the instance of the petitioner. Though the Scrutiny Committee has observed that the petitioner produced Extract of P-1 for the year 1912-17 in respect of Dolya s/o Raoji showing entry 'Mana', whereas the Vigilance Cell collected the P-1 Extract pertaining to Dolya s/o Raoji of 1912-17 showing 'Kunbi Mana'. We have perused both the documents. In both the documents the caste is shown as 'Mana'. There is no mention of 'Mani'. Moreover, in both the documents above the word 'Mana', there is word written as 'Kunbi' with different ink. The Scrutiny Committee without referring the documents as it is, tried to portray that the petitioner has manipulated the documents. Thus, in our considered opinion, the Scrutiny Committee has recorded perverse findings just to invalidate the caste claim of the petitioners any how.

17. The Caste Scrutiny Committee has not considered the validity certificates issued in favour of Chandrakant Maruti Ghodmare and Kishor Maruti Ghodmare, cousin and uncle of the petitioner respectively on the ground that the said certificates were issued without conducting vigilance enquiry and in view of the order passed by the Hon'ble Apex Court. The validity certificates granted to the blood relatives are not cancelled till date and the same are holding the field to grant validity certificate to the petitioners. The learned counsel for the petitioners submitted that the State Government has issued circular on 06/10/2006, wherein it is mentioned that the words 'pending Supreme Court Case' should be removed from the certificates. In view thereof, the Scrutiny Committee ought not to have discarded the certificates issued in favour of blood relatives from the paternal side of the petitioners. In this regard this Court in **Apoorva D/o Vinay Nichale v. Divisional Caste Certificate Scrutiny Committee No.1 and others, 2010 (6) Mh.L.J. 401**, specifically in para-9 held as under:

“9. ....In the circumstances, we are of the view that the committee which has expressed a doubt about the validity of caste claim of the petitioner and has described it as a mistake in its order, ought not to have arrived at a different conclusion. The matters pertaining to validity of caste have a great impact on the candidate as well as on the future generations in many matters

varying from marriage to education and enjoyment, and therefore where a committee has given a finding about the validity of the caste of a candidate another committee ought not to refuse the same status to a blood relative who applies. A merely different view on the same facts would not entitle the committee dealing with the subsequent caste claim to reject it. There is, however, no doubt as observed by us earlier that if a committee is of the view that the earlier certificate is obtained by fraud it would not be bound to follow the earlier caste validity certificate and is entitled to refuse the caste claim and also in addition initiate proceedings for cancellation of the earlier order. In this view of the matter, we are of the view that the petition must succeed. Rule is made absolute in above terms. The Caste Scrutiny Committee is directed to furnish the caste validity certificate to the petitioner.”

18. So far as validity of Section 6 of the Maharashtra Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, De-Notified Tribes, Vimukta Jatis, Nomadic Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Special Backward Category Regulation of Issuance and Verification of Caste Certificates) Act, 2000 and Rule 9 of the Maharashtra Scheduled Tribes (Regulation of Issuance and Verification of) Certificates Rules, 2003 are concerned, this Court already upheld the validity of above provisions and therefore, no need to make any observation in this regard.

19. The learned counsel for the petitioners placed reliance on **Gitesh s/o Narendra Ghormare v. Scheduled Tribe Certificate Scrutiny Committee, Nagpur and others** (*supra*), wherein this Court held as

under:

“If there are number of documents containing different kinds of entries of caste/tribe like ‘Mana’, ‘Mane’, ‘Mani’, ‘Mana Kunbi’, ‘Kshatriya Mana’, ‘Khand Mana’, ‘Maratha Mana’ and so on, the duty of the Court will be to ascertain the dominant entries having greater probative value and record a specific finding of conclusive nature as to whether entries can be construed as 'Mana Scheduled Tribe', which is an entry in the cluster of tribes at Serial No. 18 in the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order. Merely because certain documents indicate entry of caste/tribe other than 'Mana' is not enough to reject the claim. What is prohibited is that the entry 'Mana' in Scheduled Tribes Order does not include or exclude the entries like 'Mana Kunbi', 'Kshatriya Mana', 'Khand Mana', 'Maratha Mana', 'Kunbi Mana' and so on, which are probably known to exist as separate caste/tribe or sub-caste/tribe, The interpretation, clarification, explanation of the entries in the Scheduled Tribes Order is not permitted. The interpretation of entries in the documents cannot be confused with the interpretation entry in the Scheduled Tribes Order. It is not the finding of the Committee that the father of the petitioner obtained the caste validity certificate by playing a fraud or that the grant of certificate was without jurisdiction. On the contrary, the certificates indicate that the same are issued in view of the decision of the Apex Court. A merely different view on the same facts in a subsequent case of blood relative would not entitle the Committee to reject the claim. Therefore, the Committee ought to have validated the certificate in favour of the petitioner. The order passed by the Scrutiny Committee invalidating the claim of the petitioner for 'Mana Scheduled Tribe' cannot be sustained. The same will have to be quashed and set aside by granting a declaration that the petitioner has

established his claim on the basis of the documents produced on record for 'Mana Scheduled Tribe'. 2011(6) Mh.L.J. (S.C.) 919, Rel. (Paras 23, 31 and 32).”

Learned counsel Ms.Rane in support of her contention that there is no question of any area restriction, so also in support of her contention that the Committee has not pointed out any material or evidence, which holds that a caste by name 'Mana' exists independent of Mana Scheduled Tribe, the learned counsel for the petitioners placed reliance on *Mrunali d/o Shamrao Wakade v. The Vice-Chairman/ Member Secretary, Scheduled Tribe Caste Certificate Scrutiny Committee, Gadchrioli and others* (*supra*), wherein in paras 12 and 13 held as under:

“12. Insofar as adverse finding on residence/native place of family of respective petitioners is concerned, it is apparent that after 1976 exercise of removal of area restriction, said aspect loses its relevance. The fact that petitioner or his family hails from such area at the most can be corroborative piece of evidence in favour of the petitioner. It cannot be used against him. This aspect had already been looked into in judgment delivered by this Bench in the case of **Chhaya d/o Jasvantsingh Hajari and others v. Committee for Scrutiny and Verification of Tribe Claims, Amravati and others (reported in 2018 LawSuit (Bom) 1403)**.

13. In present matters, the Committee has not come across any material which shows that caste "Mana" has been shown either by interpolation or tampering. The Committee has only, because of absence of vigilance

exercise, ignored validities and taken recourse to affinity. There is a general observation which records that in Vidarbha area, "Mana" caste also exists and they are mostly cultivators. Their caste is recorded as "Mana", "Mane", "Mani", "Mane Kunbi", "Mani Kunbi" or "Kunbi". The Committee observes that this "Mana" (so called upper caste Mana) take advantage of similarity of name and pose themselves as candidates belonging to "Mana" Scheduled Tribe. However, this observation of Committee is not supported by any evidence. The Committee has not pointed out any case law or any other material which holds that a caste by name "Mana" exists independent of "Mana" Scheduled Tribe. In absence of this material, a general observation as mentioned supra, cannot have the effect of ignoring validities earlier granted.”

The learned counsel for the petitioners in support of her contention that ‘Koonbee’ has come to the synonyms with agriculturist and it is common thing to hear farmer of Brahmin or other caste describe themselves as a ‘Koonbee Mana’, placed reliance on ***Manisha D/o Pundlik Dadmal v. The Vice-Chairman/Member Secretary, Scheduled Tribe Caste Certificate Scrutiny Committee, Gadchrioli and others (supra)***, wherein this Court held in paras 9 and 10 as under:

“9. The relevant portion appearing in sub-paragraph (B) in impugned order of Scrutiny Committee contains a chart and it reproduces certain facts or figures with reference to Government Gazette. The oldest gazette mentioned there is of year 1869-1870. Paragraph or part 136 is reproduced in last column. This portion reads as under :-

*136. Koonbees from the Largest, the most important, and the sturdiest portion of the Hindoo land cultivator community so much so that Koonbee has come to the synonymous with agriculturist and it is no uncommon thing to hear farmer of Brahmin or other caste describe himself as a "Koonbee Manna".*

Perusal of this portion, therefore, shows that Koonbee had become synonymous then with agriculturist and even farmers of Brahmin or other castes describe themselves as 'Koonbee Manna'. Other part of said chart then refers to Anthropometric Measurements of Maharashtra by authors like Irawati Karwe and Vishnu Mahadeo Dandekar. Little later in this chart against serial no. 3 while extracting some portion from Gazetteer of India Maharashtra State Nagpur District (Revised Edition) (First Edition 1908 and Second Edition (Revised 1966) under the heading "People of Hindu Caste mentioned as Mana agriculturist", it is recorded that (i) Manes and Dhanojes are the lowest sub-divisions (ii) Manes appear to be Manas who have become Kunbis. These portions relied upon by Committee, therefore, show that the Committee itself has found that Manas who have become Kunbis were recognized as Manes.

10. Though there is no other material to support these recitals in Government Gazette, the position prevailing prior to 1869-1870 or in 1908, therefore, shows that then people from other castes/tribes were presenting themselves as 'Kunbi Manas'. If Manes are original Manas, we failed to understand as to how finding of document recording caste as 'Mane' can itself be fatal to the caste claim."

The learned AGP has placed reliance on the judgment of

***Sakshi D/o Govindrao Narnaware v. The Scheduled Tribe Caste***

*Certificate Scrutiny Committee, Nagpur (supra)*, in which this Court relied on *Maroti Vyankati Gaikwad and others v. Deputy Director & Member-Secretary, The Scheduled Tribe Caste Certificate Scrutiny Committee, Amravati and others (Writ Petition No.12/2022, decided on 17/04/2023)* and held in para-17 as under:

“(17) Bare perusal of the above dictum, it appears that this Court has categorically held that the persons *belonging to tribes or sub-tribes such as 'Badwaik Mana', 'Khand Mana', 'Kshatriya Mana', 'Kshatriya Badwaik Mana', 'Kunbi Mana', 'Maratha Mana', 'Gond Mana', 'Mani'/'Mane', 'Mane Ku', 'Mana Ku', 'Ku Mana', 'Mana Kunbi', 'Patil Mana', etc. cannot be held to be included in the Scheduled Tribe "Mana", in entry 18 in the Presidential (ST) Order 1950. Thus, one cannot claim the status of a Scheduled Tribe.*”

However, it is informed by the learned counsel for the petitioners that this judgment was challenged before the Hon'ble Apex Court by the petitioners therein and there is stay to the effect, operation and execution of the said judgment.

20. In view of above discussion, the petitioners are entitled to get validity certificates. Hence, all the writ petitions are allowed.

21. The impugned orders dated 11/04/2018 in Case No.सआ/अजप्रतसनाग/III/130/31/2015 (Writ Petition No.5892/2018), dated 29/12/2017 in Case No.सआ/अजप्रतस/नाग/II/133/31/12-13 (Writ

Petition No.1039/2018) and dated 17/09/2018 in Case No.सआ/अजप्रतसनाग/III/148/31/2013 (Writ Petition No.8007/2018), passed by the respondent No.1-Scheduled Tribe Caste Certificate Scrutiny Committee, Nagpur are hereby quashed and set aside.

22. It is held and declared that the petitioners have duly established that they belong to "Mana" Scheduled Tribe. The respondent No.1-Scheduled Tribe Certificate Scrutiny Committee, Nagpur is hereby directed to issue validity certificates of "Mana" Scheduled Tribe to the petitioners within a period of four weeks.

23. Since the petitioners are presently working in their respective departments, the interim order, if any, is confirmed. In view of disposal of the petitions, the pending application(s), if any, is(are) disposed of.

24. Rule is made absolute in the above terms. No order as to costs.

(NANDESH S. DESHPANDE, J)

(SMT. M. S. JAWALKAR, J)