

As you would be aware, this Ministry has been "authenticating" educational certificates of persons going abroad for employment or higher studies. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has also been countersigning them, as required by Governments of Foreign countries especially in the Middle-East. "Authentication" in the context of an educational certificate signifies that: -

- > The documents authenticated is genuine/original, and
- > The qualification is duly recognized by competent authority.

2. In view of the steady increase in the number of people coming to this Ministry for authentication, it was decided in July, 2004, with the concurrence of the Ministry of External Affairs, that power to authenticate educational certificates may be exercised by authorized officials of State Governments also in respect of residents of the respective States holding qualifications conferred by the recognized bodies located within the State. Accordingly, the powers to authenticate educational certificates were delegated to thirteen State Governments during July, 2004 and to the State Government of J & K in Sept., 2005. With a view to extending this facility of authentication at the State level to residents of Goa, it has now been decided, with the concurrence of MEA, to similarly authorize the Government of Goa, Education Department to authenticate educational certificates of residents of the State holding qualifications conferred by recognized bodies located within Goa.

3. In view of the above, we would be grateful if Government of Goa could urgently authorize up to three Officers of the State Education Department only to authenticate educational certificates, as above, after proper verification of the genuineness of the same from the concerned academic institutions. Specimen signature(s) and seal(s) of the officers so authorized may please be forwarded in advance to the CPV Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Patiala House, New Delhi as well as to this Ministry.

4. I am also enclosing a set of detailed guidelines regarding authentication of educational certificates as well as a sample copy of the educational certificate authenticated by this Department, with the request that strict adherence to them may kindly be ensured.

With regards,

Yours sincerely, (N.K.Sinha)

Encl : As above.

Shri J.P.Singh, Chief Secretary, Government Of Goa, Secretariat, Panji –4003001.