

श्रीमती चित्रा चोपड़ा
सदस्य-सचिव

Chitra Chopra
Member - Secretary



राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग
सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता मंत्रालय
भारत सरकार

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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NCBC Advice No. 11-18/Himachal Pradesh/2011

09th November, 2011

Dear *Shri Acharya,*

I am sending herewith the advice of the National Commission for Backward Classes under Section 9 (1) of the National Commission for Backward Classes Act 1993, regarding the following castes/communities:-

1. Popo Brahman
2. Jhiwar, Jheur, Jheer as synonyms of 'Dhinwar or Jhinwar, Jheewar'
3. Bujhru, Dakaut
4. (i) Populace living in Malana revenue village of Kullu District (HP)
(ii) Populace i.e. Bangahalias residing since time immemorial in Chhota Bhargal and Bara Bhargal area of Kangra District (HP)
(iii) Choharka other than SC and ST residing in 12 Gram Panchayats in Choharghati of Mandi District (HP)
5. Sanyasi, Gujrati, Vyas
6. Maha Brahman, Acharj, Charj, Acharya

for the State of Himachal Pradesh, duly authenticated, for necessary action by the Central Government under section 9 (2) of the Act.

With regards,
Yours sincerely,

Chitra Chopra

(Smt. Chitra Chopra)

o/c

Shri K M Acharya
Secretary
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi

14/11/11

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

Hon'ble Shri Justice M.N.Rao, Chairperson

Hon'ble Shri S.K.Kharventhan, Member

Hon'ble Shri Deepak Katole, Member

Hon'ble Dr. Shakeel uz-Zaman Ansari, Member

Case: Request for Inclusion of "Popo Brahman" as synonym of 'Ard Pop' in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the State of Himachal Pradesh.

I. Request:

1. This case arises from the request received in the National Commission for Backward Classes from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh for inclusion of the caste "**Popo Brahman**" as a synonym of 'Ard Pop' at Entry No. 2 in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the State of Himachal Pradesh.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

2. The Commission consisting of Justice Shri M. N. Rao, Hon'ble Chairperson, Shri S. K. Kharventhan, Hon'ble Member, Shri Deepak Katole, Hon'ble Member and Dr. Shakeel uz-Zaman Ansari, Hon'ble Member, held a Public Hearing in respect of the request of the castes/communities/sub-castes/synonyms for inclusion in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Himanchal Pradesh on 17th August, 2011. At the Public Hearing, the State Government was represented by Shri S. K. Das, I.A.S., Principal Secretary, Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, Shri P. C. Dhiman, I.A.S.,

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Principal Secretary, Department of Health; Shri S. K. B. S. Negi, I.A.S., Principal Secretary, Rural Development Department, Shri T. G. Negi, I.A.S., Principal Secretary, Administrative Reforms Department, Ms. Madhu Bala, Special Secretary, Social Justice & Empowerment Department, Shri Manish Garg, Director, Social Justice & Empowerment; and Shri Vinod Goyal, Member Secretary, Himachal Pradesh Commission for Backward Classes.

III. Findings:

3. The State Government of Himachal Pradesh has requested the NCBC for inclusion of 'POPO BRAHMAN' in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Himachal Pradesh. The request is made on the basis that this community is also known as ARD POP which has already been included both in the State List of OBCs and the Central List of OBCs; in the Central List of OBCs ARD POP is at Entry No.2 and the State List of OBCs at Sl.No.2.

4. We have gone through the Advice tendered by the State Commission to the State Government of Himachal Pradesh for inclusion of POPO BRAHMAN in the State List of OBCs. The State Commission after a detailed enquiry has recorded the findings interlia that –

- (1) This community is a nomadic community going from village to village for getting alms;
- (2) Some of the members of the community eke out their livelihood by reading faces and hand lines (Palmistry) and are living by collecting alms;
- (3) The population of this community is negligible – not more than 240;
- (4) There is no difference between ARD POP and POPO BRAHMAN.

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5. At the time of the public hearing, one Shri Hukum Chand represented the community and stated before us that the profession of the community is begging. They are very poor and they have no representation even at the local Government level let alone State and the National level.

6. In the Ethnographic Account (People of India Vol. XXIV Himachal Pradesh, Page Nos.32-35), there is a reference to this community which is described as part of Brahmans and it is also known as ARAR POPO or HARAR POP or ARD POP. The Ethnographic Account also says that the women of this community have lower status and they participate in agricultural work and animal husbandry. It is a semi nomadic community and subsists mainly on alms and offerings by the public and some members practice palmistry and astrology. Some have small landholdings and keep cattle but most of the people are landless and non-agriculturists. A few are engaged in petty businesses and run small shops. Some are electricians or mechanics and a few also work as attendants in shops. They also render service at times as priests.

7. Taking the aforesaid facts into consideration, we have no difficulty in concluding that the community which lives on alms for their survival by resorting to begging is socially backward. The records also show that it is very backward educationally as well as economically. As there was already a finding by the State Commission that POPO BRAHMAN and ARD POP are one and the same, we recommend that the community POPO BRAHMAN be included in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Himachal Pradesh at Entry No.2 alongwith ARD POP.

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National Commission for Backward Classes
New Delhi

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IV. ADVICE OF THE COMMISSION

8. The Commission in view of the above findings has decided to tender the following Advice to the Central Government under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act, 1993, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the NCBC Act:-

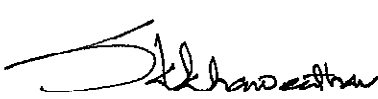
"The caste 'POPO BRAHMAN' be included as synonym of 'ARD POP' at entry no. 2 in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the State of Himachal Pradesh as follows:

Entry No. 2- ARD POP, POPO BRAHMAN



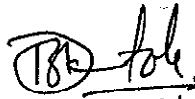
(Justice M. N. Rao)

Chairperson



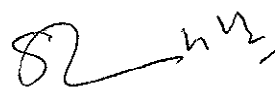
(S. K. Kharventhan)

Member



(Deepak Katole)

Member



(Dr. Shakeel-uz-Zaman Ansari)

Member

AUTHENTICATED



National Commission for Backward Classes
New Delhi

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