



सदस्य-सचिव
राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग

भारत सरकार

ट्रिकूट-१, भीकाजी कामा प्लेस, नई दिल्ली - ११००६६

पि. एस. कृष्णन्
P. S. KRISHNAN
TEL : 6183190

Member - Secretary
National Commission for Backward Classes
Government of India
Trikoot-1, Bhikaiji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110066

DO NCBC Advice No. West Bengal 35/98

26. 03. 1998

Dear Shri Manavalan,

I am sending herewith the Advice of the National Commission for Backward Classes under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act, for rejection of the Request for Inclusion of 'Mangar (Thapa, Rana)' caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the Act.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely

[Signature]
(P.S.KRISHNAN)

Encl: As stated

Shri D.K. Manavalan
Secretary to Govt. of India
Ministry of Welfare
Shastri Bhavan
NEW DELHI

MC

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

WEST BENGAL

FINDINGS

Case: Request for inclusion of "Mangar" (Thapa, Rana) in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal.

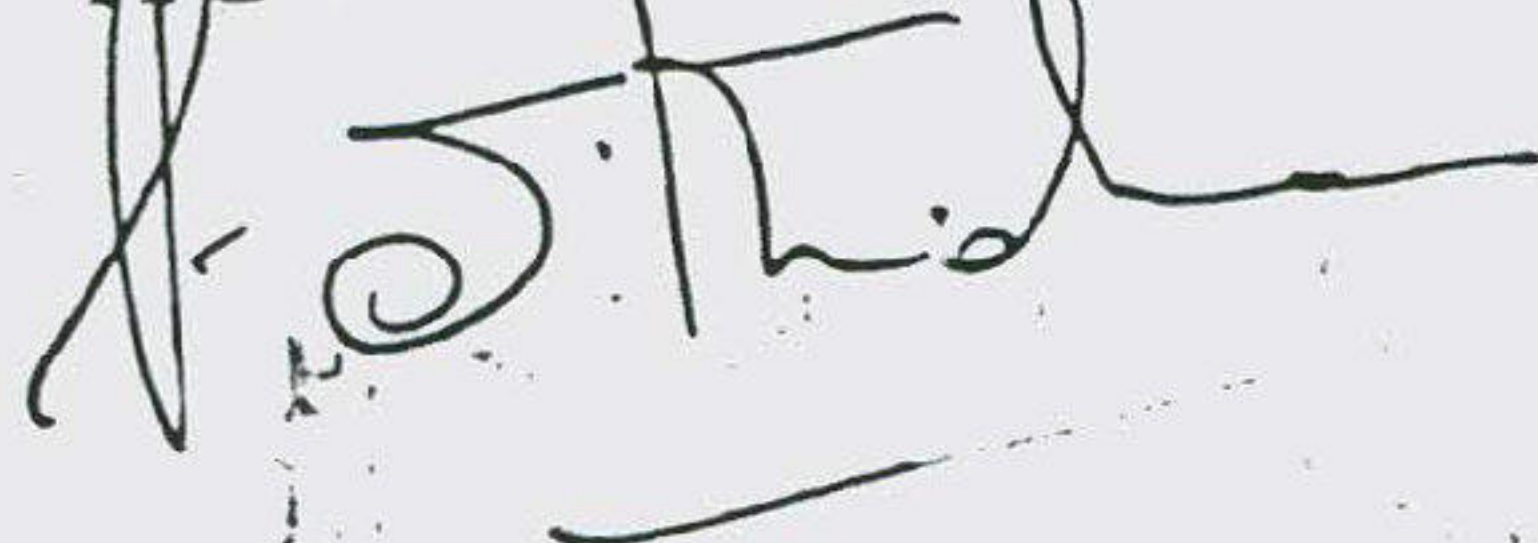
Per Shri U.P. Singh, Member

I. Request:

1. The Government of West Bengal vide letter of the Secretary, Scheduled Castes and Tribes Welfare Department No.63-TW/EC/ M-6/82 (I) dated 18th January, 1996 to the Commission has interalia requested that "Mangar" (Thapa, Rana) be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal and forwarded filled-in NCBC Questionnaire.

2. Magar Lafa Sangam, Central Committee, Kurseong, Darjeeling also made a Request to the Commission to include this caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal State.

AUTHENTICATED



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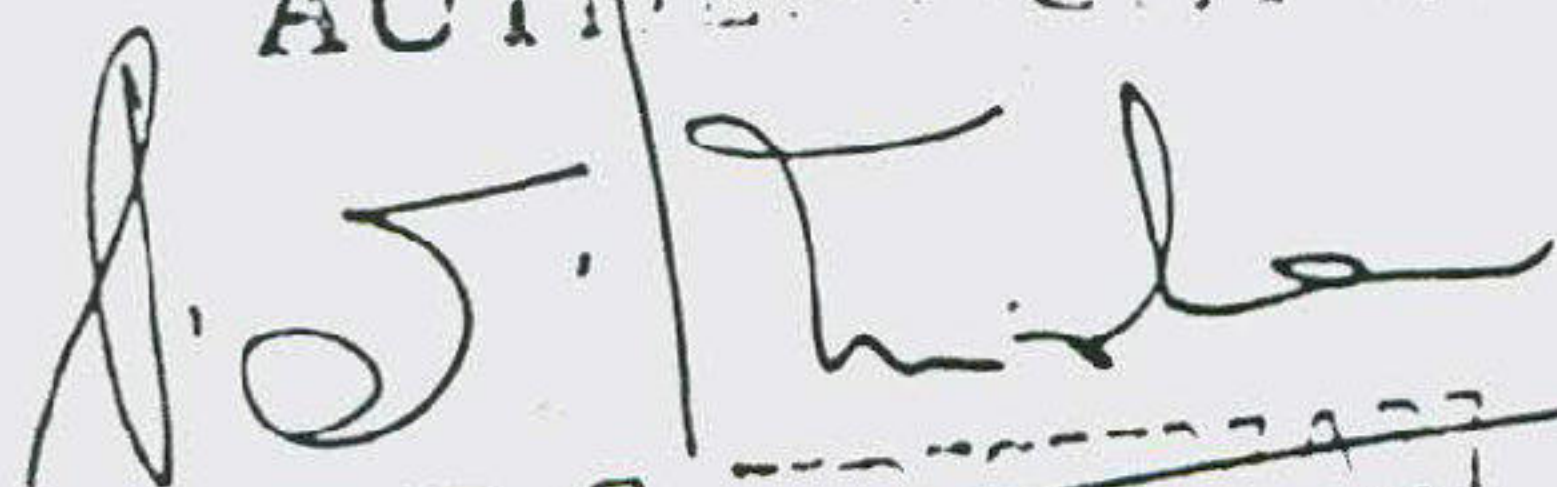
II. PUBLIC HEARING

2. The two-Member West Bengal Bench of the Commission consisting of Hon'ble Members S/Shri U.P. Singh and Sahu Akshaya Bhai held a Public Hearing at Calcutta on the 28th June, 1997 to examine this Request. Hon'ble Member of the Commission, Sh. Navtej Puadhi also joined the Bench. At the Public Hearing the State Government was represented by Dr. U.K. Ray, Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal, Scheduled Caste and Tribal Welfare Department and Dr. M.K. Chaudhary, Director, Cultural Research Institute, Calcutta. The community was represented by Shri B.B. Allay, Assistant Secretary, Magar Lafa Sangam, Central Committee, P.O. & P.S. Kurseong.

III. FACTS

3. The State Government of West Bengal had no list of Backward Classes till after the Supreme Court Judgement in the Mandal case, delivered on 16th November, 1992. For this reason, the Expert Committee on Backward Classes could not, on the basis of the principle of commonality, recommend a Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal as it could do for 14 other States, which already had their respective lists of Backward Classes, and therefore the Central Government also could not issue a Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal in 1993. The Govt. of West Bengal issued its first list of Backward Classes by its Notification No. 346-TW/EC/M-6/82 (I) dated 13th July, 1994 in the Calcutta Gazette of the same date, which consisted of 14 entries. The Government of India, Ministry of Welfare, by its Notification No. 163 dated 19.10.1994, published in the Gazette of India of 20.10.1994, issued a common list of OBCs for West Bengal which consisted of the same 14 castes/communities.

AUTHENTICATED


23/10/1997

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4. The Government of West Bengal issued its second instalment of Backward Classes consisting of 12 castes/communities by its Notification No. 705-TW/EC/M-6/82 (I) dated 13th December 1994 in the Calcutta Gazette of the same date and its third instalment of 3 castes/communities was issued by its Notification No. 370-TW/EC/M-6/82 (I) dated 12th May 1995, published in the Calcutta Gazette of the same date. The State Government has also issued a fourth instalment of 9 Backward Classes by its Notification No. 1179-TW/EC/M-6/82 (I) dated 1st December, 1995, published in the Calcutta Gazette of the same date and fifth instalment of 6 Backward Classes by its Notification No. 1179-TW/EC/M-6/82(I) dated 1st December, 1995 published in the Calcutta Gazette on the same date.

5. "Mangar (Thapa, Rana)" is one of the 9 castes/communities included in the fourth State List of Backward Classes issued on 1st December, 1995.

6. The corresponding entry in the Mandal Commission's List of Backward Classes for West Bengal is as follows:-

" 136. Mangar"

" 155. Rana "

" 170. Thapa"

7. The Questionnaire furnished by the State Govt. and received on 18th January, 1996 contains the following facts about the "Mangar (Rana, Thapa) caste/community:-

(i) The "Mangar (Rana, Thapa)" Caste/Community is also known by name of Magar, Rana, Thapa.

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(ii) The caste/community is spread in Darjeeling district.

(iii) The caste/community is generally regarded as socially backward.

(iv) The occupation on which the members of the caste/community mainly depend for livelihood is "agricultural Labour rendered for wage" Only 2% of the population possess land which is below the ceiling limit for agricultural land in the State. Majority of the population (Men, Women & Children) are landless agricultural labourers rendered for wage.

(v) The caste/community is educationally backward.

8. H.H. Risley in his book "The Tribes and Castes of Bengal Ethnographic Glossary (Firma Mukhopadhyay, Calcutta; India: 1981, Reprint First edition Calcutta 1891) stated:- "Mangar, Magar, Thami one of the fighting tribes of Nepal, belonging, with the Gurung Khas and Sunuwar, to the Mukhya group, and highly esteemed for their military qualities (p.Vol.II, P.74). ----- Agriculture, trade and soldiering are the chief occupations of the Mangars but no means of earning of livelihood comes amiss to them, provided that it does not involve doing things which are recognized as the proper business of the lower castes. "(Vol.II,p.76). He also stated "Rana", a title of Mangars in Darjeeling (Ibid, Vol.II, p.195).

9. People of India- Sikkim, General Editor K.S. Singh (Anthropological Survey of India, Seagull Books,

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Calcutta, 1993, Volume XXXIX) described about the Mangar caste/community as follows:-

" The Mangars were one of the three dominant and militant communities of Nepal who along with the Chhetris and Gurungs overthrew the Newar dynasty of Nepal in 1769 (Risley 1891). They were highly esteemed for their military prowess (p. 118).....The Mangars in Sikkim are considered only next to Brahmans and Chhettris in caste and varna hierarchy. Among the Nepali castes in Sikkim the position of the Mangars and the Gurungs is considered a little higher than that of the Rais, Limbus, Lepchas and Bhutias, followed by the Scheduled Castes. The Mangars have lost their traditionality at present and become considerably different. They consider themselves Shudra in the varna order and practise agriculture..... The superior position of the Mangars has been recognised by other Nepali communities too (p. 119)..... Land is their main resource which is owned by individual proprietors. Mainly a landowning community, they have a few who are landless. Terrace cultivations is their main occupation. They produce paddy in the hill terraces by plough agriculture..... Though agriculture remains their main occupation they are prepared to take on any occupation except menial jobs. (p.122)..... Literacy is poor among the Mangars (p.124)".

10. The National Commission for Backward Classes vide its letter No. 5/26/4/RW/NCBC dated 23rd July, 1997 sought views of the State Government in respect of "Manger (Thapa, Rana)" castes on the basis of which these were included in the State List of Backward Classes. About eight months have passed the NCBC has not so far received any reply from the State Government in view of above paras 9 and 10. The Bench can not withhold findings indefinitely in respect of castes merely for want of information therefore it has decided to formulate its findings on the basis of adequate evidence available with it.


P. S. PRADHAN
Member Secretary
National Commission
for Backward Classes

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IV FINDINGS

14. From Risley's ethnographic account and people of India for Sikkim the bench finds that the position of the Mangars is exactly the same in the hill regions of West Bengal as in the Sikkim State therefore it can be concluded that the Mangar (Thapa, Rana) caste/community is not a socially backward. Two important elements of qualities in them viz. superior position regarded by other Nepali communities and military prowess do not qualify the caste/community as a socially backward caste. The inclusion of such a caste/community in the list of Backward Classes is not only counter to the facts and social realities, but also deprives the classes which are genuinely socially backward of their due and thus seriously distorts the Constitutional and National Policy on Backward Classes. The inclusion of such advanced castes/communities in the list of Backward Classes also confers on them an un-constitutional and un-conscionable advantage over other advanced castes/communities who are, correctly, not included in the list of Backward Classes and with whom the former ought to compete on equal terms. Therefore, the Request for Inclusion of " Mangar" (Thapa, Rana) in the Central list of Backward Classes for West Bengal should be rejected.

Ashaya
02.03.98

(SAHU AKSHAYA BHAI)

Uday Pratap Singh

(UDAY PRATAP SINGH)

Uday Pratap Singh
26.2.98

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NOTIFIED
P. S. Pradhan
P. S. PRADHAN
Secretary
Ministry of Education
Government of West Bengal

V. Advice of the Commission

The Commission considered and agreed in full with the findings of West Bengal Bench and decided to tender the following Advice to the Central Govt. under Section 9(i) of the NCBC Act. 1993.

" The Request for Inclusion of "Mangar" (Thapa, Rana) caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal should be rejected " as it is not a socially backward class.

Radhakrishna
26.2.98

Madan Mohan
26.2.98

Bhayan
02.03.98

S. S. Kishan
9.3.98

P. S. Kishan
4/3/98

S. S. Kishan
F. S. Kishan
Secretary
Commission
for Backward Classes