

NCBC. Advice No. 20 - 21 / Delhi / 2001

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

Delhi Bench

FINDINGS

Case:- Request for inclusion of "Naddaf, Mansoori" as synonyms of Dhunia" in the central list of backward classes for the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

I. Request

1. This case arises from the request received in this commission from Shri Bashir Ahmed Ansari, President, Delhi State Muslim Backward Classes Federation, 1435, Chhatta Nawab Sahib, Farash Khana, Delhi-6 for inclusion of "Naddaf, Mansoori" as synonyms of Dhunia" in the central list of backward classes for the NCT of Delhi.

II. Public hearing

2. A full-member Bench of the Commission, consisting of Justice B.L. Yadav, Hon'ble Chairperson, Shri C.T. Benjamin, Hon'ble Member-Secretary, Shri M.S. Matharoo, Smt. Neera Shastri and Dr. B.M. Das, Hon'ble Members of the National commission for backward classes held a public hearing at New Delhi regarding the requests received in this commission from/on behalf of this caste/community, for their inclusion in the central list of backward classes for NCT of Delhi on 16th November, 2000. At the public hearing, the state Government was represented by Shri Rajinder Singh, Member Secretary, backward classes commission, NCT of Delhi and Shri

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Brahmanand, Deputy Director, Directorate for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The community was represented by Shri Hasi Abdul Khalique Ansari, President, Delhi State Momin Conference, Shri Bashir Ahmed Ansari, President, Muslim Backward Classes Federation, Delhi, Shri Feroze Ahmad Ansari, President, All India Youth Momin Conference, New Delhi and others.

III. Facts

3. The NCT of Delhi 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 the NCT of Delhi 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 the NCT of Delhi in 1993. The Delhi Government by its Notification No. F.28(93)91-92/SCST/P&S dated 7.1.1995 issued a state list of BCs, based on the advice of the backward classes commission of N.C.T of Delhi. Thereafter, the central Government vide Ministry of Welfare's resolution No. 12011/7/95-BCC dated 24.5.1995 issued a "common" (central) list of backward classes for the NCT of Delhi.

4. 'Naddaf, Mansoori' as synonyms of 'Dhunia' is not included in the central list of backward classes for NCT of Delhi prepared and notified in 1995 on the basis of the principle of commonality (i.e. inclusion in the central list of those castes/communities which were found included in both the Mandal commission's list as well as the state Government's list) as it was not included in Mandal list and therefore did not satisfy the criterion of commonality.

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5. The relevant entries in respect of the caste/community in different lists are as follows:

State List

"20. Dhunia, Pinjara, Kandra-Karan, Dhunnewala, Naddaf, Mansoori.

Mandal List

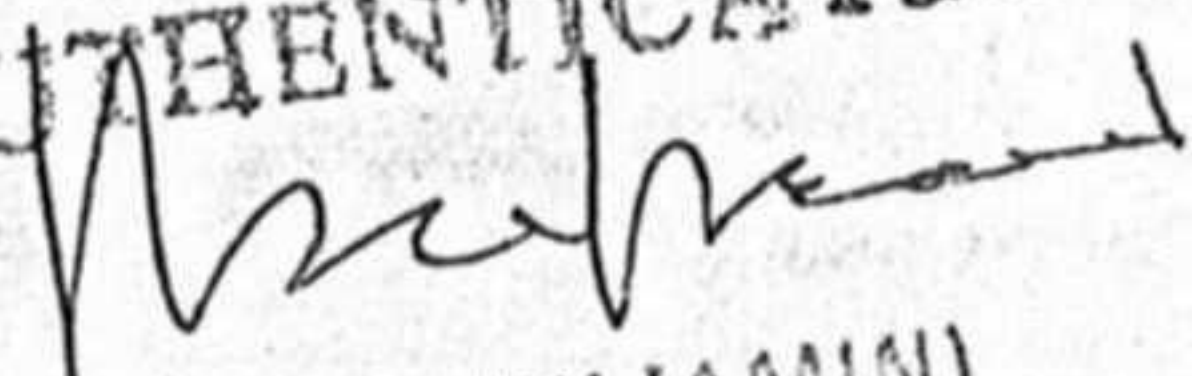
"19. Dhunia, Pinjara, Kadher, Dhunnewala

Central List

"20. Dhunia, Pinjara, Kandra-Karan, Dhunnewala

6. In their request for inclusion of "Naddaf, Mansoori as synonyms of Dhunia" caste/community in the central list of BCs for Delhi, they have stated that several synonyms of castes/communities have been omitted at the time of notification of central list for NCT of Delhi in 1995, which were identified by the Delhi backward classes commission (Justice Jain commission) report. As such the main community appears in the state list of BCs alongwith the synonyms as " Dhunia, Pinjara, Kadher-Karan, Dhunnewala, Naddaf, Mansoori" but in the central list the synonyms "Naddaf, Mansoori" are not included.

7. During the public hearing the representatives of the community stated that the traditional occupation of the community is 'cotton-carding, Their forefathers used to do this work but at present many of their members have moved to other occupations like manual labour, petty business, small-scale cottage industries. They stated that the social and educational backwardness of the community still persists though there is some improvement. They also said that nowadays the members of the community send their

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children to schools but because of their backwardness and poor economic conditions their children do not go beyond 10th standard. Many of the families retain their school-age children for wage-earning. The representation of the members of the community in the Government service and public sector is negligible. On specific query as to how one can be sure that the title 'Naddaf & Mansoori' would not be misused by members of other castes/communities, the representatives stated that to preclude misuse of titles, the community organisation should be authorised to verify the correctness of the claim before certificate is issued.

8. The commission had tendered its advice for inclusion of 'Mansoori' as a synonym of Naddaf(Dhunia) caste/community in the central list of backward classes for Uttar Pradesh and the central Government has notified the same.

9. In the report of the backward classes commission, Delhi, under the head 'Dhunia,Pinjara,Kandhera,Dhunnewala', it has been stated that the representatives of the community appeared before them and stated that their community was known as Mansoori and Naddaf and therefore should be added alongwith Dhunia, Pinjara, Kandhera-Karan and Dhunnewala. Further it is stated in the report that according to the evidence recorded by them as well as from the report of the socio-economic survey they found that all these communities are socially backward, and entitled to be included in the list of OBCs.

10. The prevalence of the name 'Mansoori' for this community has been attested as long back as 1896 by W.Crooke in "The Tribes and Castes of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh", Calcutta,1896, which has been reprinted as "The Tribes and Castes of the North Western India", Cosmo Publications, Delhi, 1974. Under the entry "Dhuniya,Dhuna" (Vol.II,pp.297-301), Crooke describes this community as the "cotton-carding caste" and traces its etymology to Hindi *dhunn* "to card": Sanskrit *Dhu*, "to agitate". He notes that most of the members of this caste are Muhammadans while some are Hindus. Crooke also records various other names by which this caste is known and mentions among them "Naddaf, which in Arabic means "separator". He also mentions

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that in the general census report, the members of this community were recorded under only one main sub-caste viz. "Mansuri", a name taken after the name of a tribal saint called Khwaja Mansur". Crooke notes that the primary business of this community is 'carding or rather scutching of cotton.'

11. The representatives of the state Government who were present stated that the Jain commission (backward classes commission, Delhi) has found that all the three names i.e. Naddaf, Mansoori, Dhunia as denoting to a single caste/community. The state Government has already included 'Naddaf,Mansoori' alongwith Dhunia,Pinjara,Kandhera,Dhunnewala on the basis of the recommendation of the backward classes commission, Delhi and they do not have any objection to the inclusion of these synonyms in the central list of backward classes.

12. During the public hearing, those present who were from different sections of society did not object to the proposed inclusion of 'Naddaf,Mansoori' alongwith the 'Dhunia,Pinjara,Kandera-Karan,Dhunnewala' in the central list of backward classes for Delhi.

13. A section of the Muslim community 'Dhunia', whose traditional occupation is cotton-carding use the name 'Naddaf, Mansoori'. 'Naddaf, Mansoori' are names borne by many of the Dhunias. This is a group that is socially and educationally backward and spread out in Delhi. 'Mansoori' as a synonym of Naddaf(Dhunia) has been included in the central list of backward classes for the state of Uttar Pradesh by the central Government on the basis of the recommendation of the commission.

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IV. Findings

14. From the above material and evidence, it is the findings of the Bench that a section of Muslim community of Dhunias, whose traditional occupation is cotton-carding — use the name 'Naddaf, Mansoori'. Inclusion of synonyms of castes/communities is covered by para 9 of the procedural clarification of the NCBC's "Guidelines for consideration of requests for inclusion and complaints of under-inclusion." Therefore, 'Naddaf, Mansoori' should be included in the central list of backward classes for the NCT of Delhi as synonyms of 'Dhunias' at the existing entry' no.20.Dhunias,Pinjara,Kandera-Karan,Dhunnewala' and the amended entry be read as under:

"20.Dhunias,Pinjara,Kandera-Karan,Dhunnewala,Naddaf, Mansoori"

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V. Advice of the Commission

15. The commission considered and agreed in full with the above findings of the Delhi Bench and decided to tender the following advice to the central Government under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act 1993 for action by the central Government under section 9(2) of the Act:

'Naddaf, Mansoori' be included in the central list of backward classes for the NCT of Delhi as synonyms of 'Dhunia' at the existing entry no.20 Dhunia, Pinjara, Kandra-Karan, Dhunnewala' and the amended entry be read as under:

20. Dhunia, Pinjara, Kandra-Karan, Dhunnewala, Naddaf, Mansoori"

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