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रादस्य-राधिव
राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग
भारत सरकार
त्रिकूट-१, भीकाएजी कामा प्लेस, नई दिल्ली - ११००६६

Member - Secretary
National Commission for Backward Classes
Government of India
Trikoot - 1 Bhikaiji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110 066

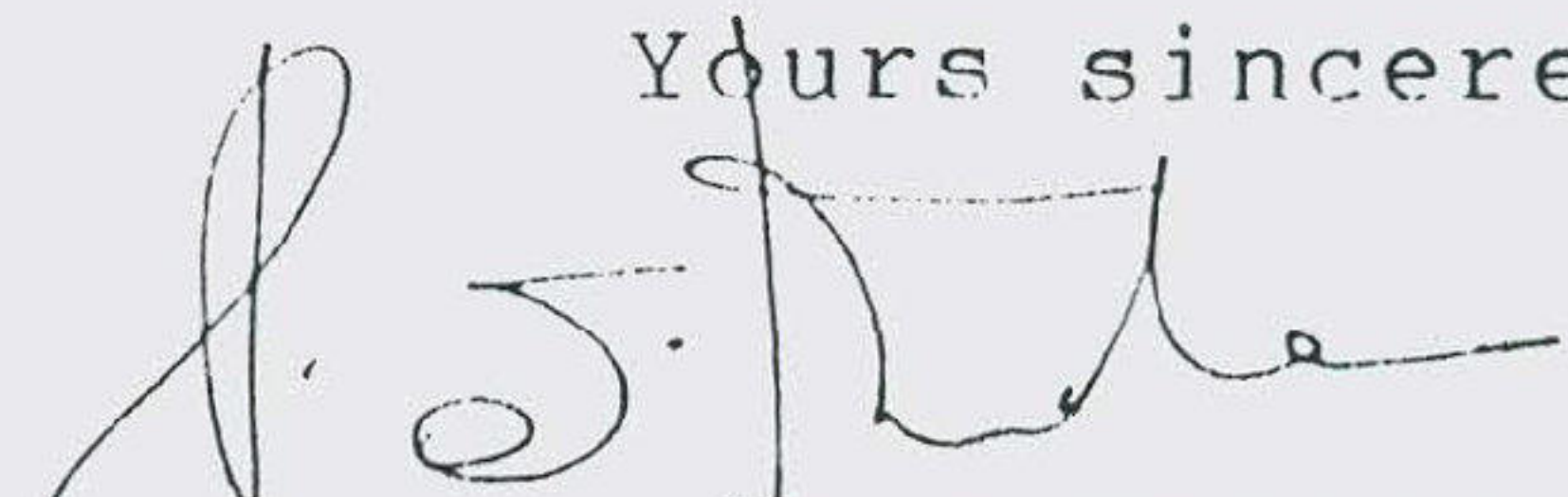
NCBC Advice No. Orissa 53/99

18.05.1999

Dear Smt. Das,

I am sending herewith the Advices of the National Commission for Backward Classes under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act for the Rejection of the Requests for Inclusion of "Ekadash Teli" as a synonym of Teli caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa, duly authenticated, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the NCBC Act.

Yours sincerely


(P.S. KRISHNAN)

Encl: As stated.

Smt. Asha Das
Secretary to Govt. of India
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Shastri Bhavan
NEW DELHI

issued
27/5/99

O/C

NCBC Advice No.53 Orissa/98

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

ORISSA BENCH

FINDINGS

Case :- Request for inclusion of Ekadash Teli as a Sub-caste/Synonym of Teli Caste in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa.

Per Shri U. P. Singh, Member

I. Request

This case arises from the Request received in this Commission from Shri Natbar Pal at/Po. -Dahamunde, Distt. Balosore for inclusion of the Ekadash Teli as synonym of Teli in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa.

II. Public Hearing

2. The two-Member Bench of this Commission consisting of Hon'ble Members Shri U. P. Singh and Shri Sahu Akshaya Bhai held a Public hearing to examine the request of this case for inclusion in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa on 08.10-98 at Bhubaneswar. The State Government was represented by Shri. R. B. Naik, Director O.B.C. The State Commission for Backward classes was represented by Shri Bharat Bhushan Jagdev, Administrative officer. The Caste/Community was represented by Shri Jogeswar Karan, Central School, South Road, Jatni, Distt. Khoorda.

III. Facts

3. The relevant entries in different lists are as below :

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Mandal List

"207. Teli, Telli, Kubara, Talakar, Sahu, Bahaldia"

State List

"168. Teli, Telli, Kubera, Talakar, Bahaldia, Ekadas Teli, Tailik Baishya"

Central List

"162. Teli,
Telli,
Kubara,
Talakar,
Sahu,
Bahaldia"

4. At the time when the Expert Committee on Backward Classes prepared the first phase Central List of Backward Classes on the basis of the principle of commonality, i.e. by listing castes common to both the Mandal List for each State and the respective State Lists and when, on the basis of the Expert Committee's Report, the Government of India notified the first-phase Central List in 1993, Orissa was one of the States which did not have a State List of its own. Therefore no Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa was prepared at that stage. It was only after the Supreme Court's Judgement in the Mandal case that the State List of Orissa came into existence in 1994 on the basis of one man Justice N.K. Das Commission report. Thereafter the Central Government vide Ministry of Welfare's Resolution No. 12011/9/94-BCC dated 19.10.94 issued a "Common (Central) List" of Backward Classes for Orissa. Ekadash Teli was not included in the Central List for Orissa because the sub-caste was not included either in the Mandal List or in the State List existed at that time.

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The Orissa State Government on advice of the State Commission for Backward Classes vide Resolution No. OBC-1/96/8222/W Dated 29.7.96 included Ekadas Teli/Tailik Baishya/Kubera (substitute to Kubara) in the State List of Backward Classes.

5. In his request for inclusion of Ekadas Teli in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa Shri Natbar Pal has stated that Ekadash Teli belong to Teli Community and is equivalent to this so the caste/community be included in the O.B.C. List.

6.. At the Public Hearing the representative of the caste/community stated that the Members of the Ekadas Teli community were not doing the oil pressing job. The traditional occupation of Ekadash Teli caste is bussiness. The State Govt. has included Ekadas Teli in the list of Backward Classes. When the Bench asked them whether marriages are being arranged between Telis and Ekadash Telis, they said that these two communities have no marriage relations but now a days the restrictions on inter-caste marriages are not strong so anyone can marry to any other. There is a little difference between two communities, Telis are oilmen but Ekadas Telis do cultivation and other business.

7. H. H. Risley in his, work 'The Tribes and Castes of Bengal' (Ethnographic Glossary, vol-I, Firma Mukhopadhyay, Calcutta, Reprint, 1981, p-261) has a mention of Ekadas Teli as "Ekadas, a sub-caste of Telis in Bengal and Orissa; a section of the Rauniyar sub-caste of Baniyas in Bihar."

Further under the Title Teli, Rislay has discussed the caste as, "Teli, Taili, Tailika, Tailakar, Tailpal, Kalu, a large oil pressing and trading caste of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. Their original profession was probably oil-pressing, and the caste may be regarded as a functional group recruited from the respectable middle class of Hindu society. Oil is used by all Hindus for domestic and ceremonial purposes, and its manufacture could only be carried on by men whose social purity was beyond dispute....."

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Concerning the origin of the sub-castes which bear the curious names of Ekadas and Dwadas Teli an interesting legend is current. The father of all the Telis, it is said, was Manohar Pal, a beopari or hawker who travelled about selling various wares. He had two wives. While he was away on a journey, a rumour reached his home that he was dead. Thereupon the elder wife broke her ornaments and performed the rites appointed for a widow, but the younger wife disbelieved the tale. In fact Manohar Pal was not dead, and returned home after a few days. From the two wives sprang the two sub-castes..... the elder wife breaking her ornaments on hearing of her husband's death, the Ekadas women do not wear nose-rings and do not tattoo their foreheads and arms. Each group claims precedence over the other. The Ekadas are of course the elder branch, and it is alleged that they represent the original stock of the Teli caste, which is stated in the list given in the Brahma-Vaivartta Purana to be derived from a Kumhar (potter) father and a mother of the builder caste, Kotak or Gharami. It stands eleventh on the List, and this is the reason for the name Ekadas. The Dwadas Teli in their turn, while admitting the descent of the Ekadas from the elder wife of the founder of the caste, alleged that they have forfeited the precedence they might otherwise claim by submitting to be governed by Paramaniks in all matters relating to caste, and by sending women of the bride's family to accompany her on her first visit after marriage to her husband's house. Another queer custom of the Ekadas group forbids them to wear moustaches, but English education is said to be breaking this down..... The social standing of the Telis differs in different parts of the country and for different sub-castes. In Bengal, for example, the higher sub-castes of Telis, who have abandoned the oil trade and become bankers, money lenders, cloth-dealers, and shop-keepers, take rank among the Nava-Sakha, or nine castes (now in fact fourteen) from whose hands a Brahman may take water, while the Kalus, or working oil men, are included in a lower group along with the Sutradhar, the Sundi, and the Kapali. In Bihar the entire caste seems to stand on this lower level, and no Brahman will take water from their hands.

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8 Jogendra Nath Bhattaacharya(Hindu Castes and Sects,Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi 1995, originally published in 1896 pp 209-210) has written about the Telis of Bengal as:-

“The Telis of Bengal have now nothing to do with the manufacture of oil, and they claim to derive their name from Tula, which means the shopman’s scale, instead of from Taila, which means oil. But the derivation of Teli from Tula is grammatically impossible, and the suggestion is strongly contradicted by the fact that the Telis in other parts of the country are actually oil pressers.-----

The Telis of Bengal are a very important caste. The majority of them being shopkeepers and grain merchants, they are a very well-to-do class.

.....The Telis of Bengal have many sub-divisions among them, as, for instance, Ekadasa, Dwadasa,Betna, Tush Kota and Saptagrami”

9. According to People of India, National Series Vol.VIII, Communities, Segments, Synonyms, Surnames and Titles, K.S.Singh, (Anthropological Survey of India, Oxford University Press, Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, 1996 pp 1816-1817), Ekadash Teli is a sub-caste of Teli in Orissa.

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IV. Findings

10. From the foregoing material the Bench finds that Ekadash Teli is a sub-caste of Teli caste. Teli caste with its synonyms have already been included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa prepared by the Government on the basis of principle of commonality. The representatives of Ekadash Teli caste stated that their traditional occupation is not oil pressing but agriculture and business. The writings of Jogendra Nath Bhattacharya as above, also supports their statement that they are not oil-pressers but businessmen. Teli caste is included in the Backward Classes List being occupational caste whose traditional occupation is oil pressing, The Statement of representatives that their traditional occupation is not oil pressing and there are no intermarriages between Telis and Ekadash Telis are contradictory with their claim for inclusion in the Backward Classes List. Moreover, there are innumerable titular and territorial variations of the caste name based on legend and mythology. It is difficult to keep a count of each such variation and include in the list of OBCs. Such indiscriminate inclusion will lead to misuse by the castes/communities which are not entitled to the reservation and other benefits. The Bench is of the view that synonyms should be included only when it is an absolute synonym and is understood as such and is prevalent in use by the large number of people inhabiting the region or the group using the synonymous name are faced with the difficulty of not getting the caste certificate. No such difficulty in this case was brought out before the Bench. In view of the fact and evidence evaluated above, the Bench is of the opinion that the request for inclusion of Ekadash Teli as a synonym of Teli in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa should be **rejected**.

U.P. Singh
17.5.99
(U.P, SINGH)

Ashaya
17.05.99
(SAHU AKSHAYA BHAI)

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National Commission
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V. Advice of the Commission

10. The Commission considered and agreed in full with the findings of the Bench for Orissa 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:-

Request for inclusion of ' **Ekadash Teli** ' as a synonym of Teli in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa be **rejected**.

On account of the unfortunate demise of one of the Members Shri Navtej Puadhi on 16.8.98, this unanimous Advice of the Commission does not bear the signature of that Member. The validity of the Advice notwithstanding the vacancy caused by the demise of the aforesaid Member, is protected by Section 7 of the NCBC Act, 1993.

Navtej Puadhi
17.5.99

P. K. Sengupta
18.5.99

B. Shyam
17.05.99

A. S. Mishra
18.5.99

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