



सत्यमेव जयते

सी. टी. बेंजामिन

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NCBC Advice No. Maharashtra 34/2003

सदस्य सचिव

राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग

भारत सरकार

त्रिकुट - १, भीकाएजी कामा प्लेस, नई दिल्ली-११००६६

Member Secretary

National Commission for Backward Classes

Government of India

Trikoot-1, Bhikaiji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066

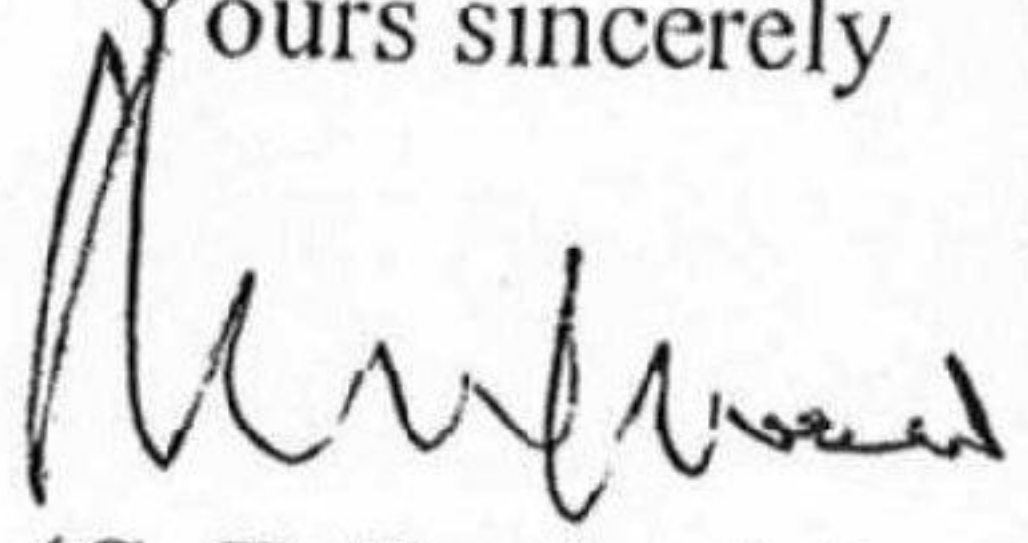
13. 06. 2003

Dear Shri Reddy,

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), for inclusion of "Twashtha Kasar" and "Kansar" as synonyms of "Tambat" in the Central list of backward classes for Maharashtra, duly authenticated, for necessary action by the Central government under Section 9(2) of the Act.

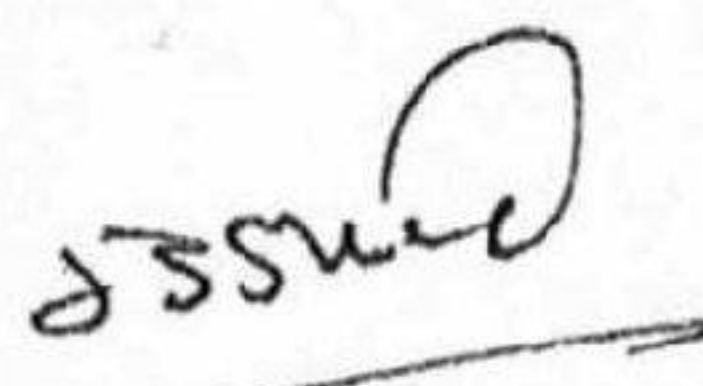
With regards,

Yours sincerely


(C. T. Benjamin) 13/6
etc

Shri C. Gopal Reddy
Secretary to Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Shastri Bhavan
NEW DELHI

Encl: As stated.


13/6/03

NCBC Advice No. Maharashtra - 34/2003

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

MAHARASHTRA BENCH

FINDINGS

Case : Request for inclusion of "Twashtha Kasar, Kansar" as synonyms of "Tambat" in the central list of backward classes for Maharashtra.

I. Request

This case arises out of the Requests received in the Commission from the following :-

- i) Ms. Prajakta Pravin Salvi, 602/B, "Nugger", New Prabhadevi Road, Prabhadevi, Mumbai.
- ii) The President, Twashtha Kasar Samaj Sanstha, Kasba Peth, Pune.

for inclusion of "Twashtha Kasar, Kansar" as synonyms of "Tambat" in the central list of backward classes for Maharashtra.

II. Public Hearing

2. A four-Member Bench of the Commission consisting of Justice Ram Surat Singh, Chairperson, Smt. Neera Shastri, Dr. B.M. Das, Members and Shri C.T.Benjamin, Member-Secretary held a public hearing at Mumbai on 07.02.2003 to consider the above request. At the public hearing, the State Government was represented by S/Shri S.N. Khatri, Chairperson, Iqbal Ansari, B.C. Idate, G.P. Sankhe,

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Members, State Backward Classes Commission, N.N. Bhadikar, Deputy Secretary and V.W. Meher, Section Officer, Social Justice, Cultural Affairs, Sports & Special Assistance Deptt., Govt. of Maharashtra. Shri Suresh Kumar, Principal Secretary to Government, Deptt. of Social Justice was also present for some time. Ms. Prajakta P. Salvi, S/Shri Pravin Moreshwar Salvi, M.V. Vadke, M.O. Borale, V.V. Chavan, P.H. Hajare, Vijay Vaman Vadke, Ramachandra Shankar Vadke and others appeared at the public hearing on behalf of the caste/community.

III. Facts

3. The position with regard to the caste/community as reflected in different lists is as follows:-

(i) Mandal List

246. Tambat

(ii) State List

160. Tambat, Twashta Kasar, Kansar

(iii) Central List

139. Tambat

4. Ms. Prajakta Pravin Salvi from Mumbai stated that she belongs to "Twashta Kasar" community which has been recognised as OBC by the Govt. of Maharashtra and entry in the State List of OBCs for Maharashtra is reflected as follows:

"160. Tambat, Twashta Kasar, Kansar"

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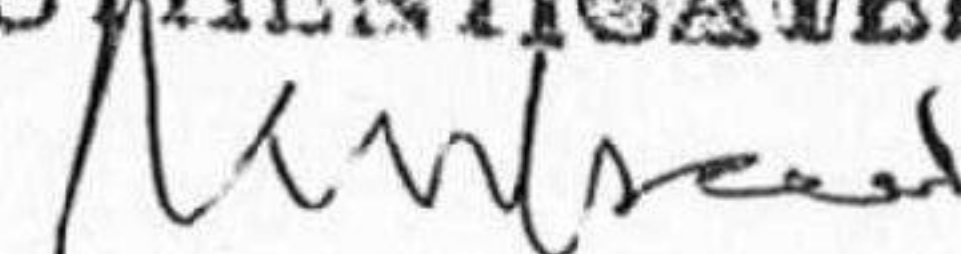
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She further stated that her caste is also known by the above three names. The traditional occupation of the caste is "Coper Smithy" i.e. preparing hand made utensils from copper and brass.

She represented that she was selected by the Reserve Bank of India for the post of Officer Grade "B" which comes under the Central Govt. Services. When the Bank asked her to submit her caste certificate she could not get it in the name of "Twashtha Kasar" as it was not included in the central list of backward classes for Maharashtra. Only "Tambat" has been included therein. Therefore she made a request to include "Twashtha Kasar", "Kansar" as synonyms of "Tambat" in the central list of backward classes for Maharashtra.

5. President, Twashta Kasar Samaj Sanstha, Pune submitted that their community is known as Twashta Kasar or Tambat which are synonyms and mainly hail from the Konkan region viz. Raigad (Kulaba), Thane, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Mumbai and Pune. In some places they are known as Tambat Ali and in some places as Kasar Ali. However, all of them belong to the same community having traditional and matrimonial ties.
6. Shri Praveen Salvi, father of Ms. Prajakta Salvi who had made the request, also appeared at the public hearing and spoke on behalf of her. He submitted that Twashta Kasar, Kansar and Tambat are one and the same caste. Their traditional occupation is copper smithy and their members are mainly engaged in the occupation of making hand-made utensils. The members of the caste have different names but only those who are known as 'Tambat' are able to obtain the required caste certificate and avail themselves of the benefits of reservation in Central Govt. services. Members of the same community, known by the other two synonyms are denied the facility on account of their non-inclusion in the central list of backward classes for Maharashtra though they are the same. He further stated that the State Govt. has already included these synonyms also in the State List of OBCs and therefore these should be included in the central list of OBCs for Maharashtra.

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In response to a query raised by the Bench with regard to their social position as compared to the main caste 'Tambat', he replied that members of the community, though known by different synonyms have similar social status and their occupation is the same and there are matrimonial relations among the members of the community.

Others who appeared and spoke on behalf of the caste corroborated the above facts.

7. R.E. Enthoven, *The Tribes And Castes of Bombay* (Vol. III, pp. 361-364) describes that the **Tambats or Coppersmiths**, from the Sanskrit *tamrpat*, numbering approximately 22,755 (1901), are found throughout the Deccan and Konkan and in the city of Bombay. They are also known as **Kasars or Kansars**; but they do not like to be called by either of these names. They style themselves **Twashtha Kasars** after Twashti, one of the five sons of Vishvakarma, the architect of the gods; and those of them who claim to be Panchals, Vishvakarma Vanshasth Panchal Brahman, that is, Panchal Brahmans of the stock of Vishvakarma. As these names indicate, all profess to trace their origin to Vishvakarma. As a matter of fact, little is known of the origin of the caste beyond the fact that it appears to have come from the Karnatak and Telangan over a thousand years ago. Tambats present the interesting aspect of a Brahman caste in embryo. They style themselves Brahmans, wear the sacred thread, possess Brahmanistic gotras and have made several efforts to train their own castemen as priests, which so far have met with little success on account of the occupation of copper-smith being more lucrative than that of a priest.

The original occupation of the caste was the manufacture of copper and brass vessels and the tinning of metal utensils. A few members of the caste have been educated to be doctors, clerks and pleaders.

They eat fish and flesh, and drink liquor. They profess not to eat *pakki* or *kacchi* at the hands of any other caste except the Brahmans, but they will smoke with any but the castes whose touch defiles, such as Mahars and Mangs.

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8. K.S. Singh, in India's Communities (Vol. IV, pp. 1554-1559), writes that the **Kansari/Kansara/Kasar/Kasera** community is spread over the States of West Bengal, Orissa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Goa. The name Kasar or Kansara has been derived from the metal kansa (bell-metal), which they use to make vessels for household use. They are makers and sellers of brass and copper utensils and are concentrated in the urban areas because of their business interest. Risley (1891) refers to them as an offshoot of the Subarnabanik, who became degraded because they took to working in kansa or bell-metal.....

In Maharashtra, the **Kansara** are known as **Twasta Kasar or Tambat**. They recall their migration from the Saurashtra region of Gujarat to escape the onslaught of the then Mughal rulers. They trace their origin to Sahashtrarjun, one of the five sons of Lord Vishwakarma. The Kansar are distributed in the districts of Pune, Kolhapur, Nasik, Dhulia, Jalgaon and Bombay.

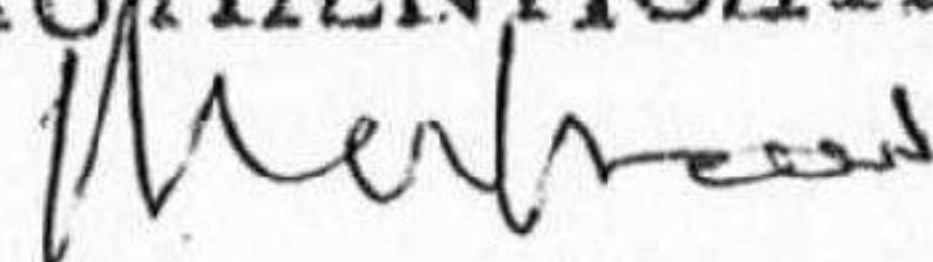
The members of the Tambat subgroup are mainly engaged in making copper vessels, while the Samvanshiya Kshatriya Kasar and Jain Kasar are engaged in selling vessels made of copper, brass, aluminium and steel. They have their own co-operative society which helps them to procure raw material and sell their finished products. The Kansara are expert in making brass, copper and silver vessels with designs carved on them.

There are a few engineers, doctors and other white-collar workers in the community.

They show a positive attitude towards formal education and modern health care system.

9. None present at the public hearing objected to the inclusion of the caste in the central list of backward classes for Maharashtra.

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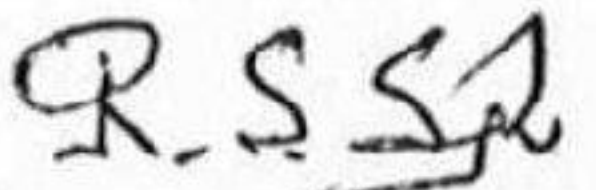
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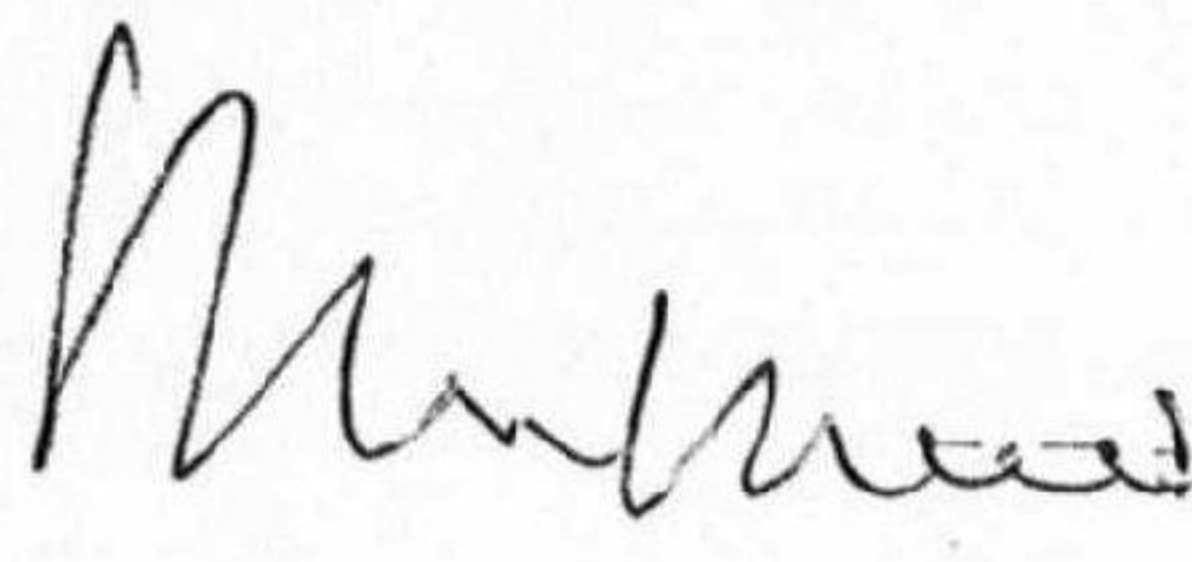
Backward Classes

IV. Findings

10. From the evidence as mentioned above, the Bench finds that Twashta Kasar and Kansar are synonyms of Tambat. Members of the community known by different synonyms, are engaged in the occupation of copper-smithy. This fact has been attested to by Risley's account which describes that the Tambats or copper-smiths are also known as Kansars or Twashta Kasars. They profess the same occupation, have similar social standing and have commensal and matrimonial relations among their members. The State Govt. has already included these synonyms in the State list of backward classes. It has been thus established that the Twashta Kasar, Kansar are synonyms of Tambat and synonyms of a caste are covered by para 9 of the Procedural Clarification on the NCBC's "guidelines for consideration of requests for inclusion and complaints of under-inclusion in the central lists of backward classes". Therefore, the Bench decided that "Twashta Kasar" and "Kansar" are synonyms of "Tambat" and should be included at entry No. 139 of the central list of backward classes for Maharashtra as follows:-

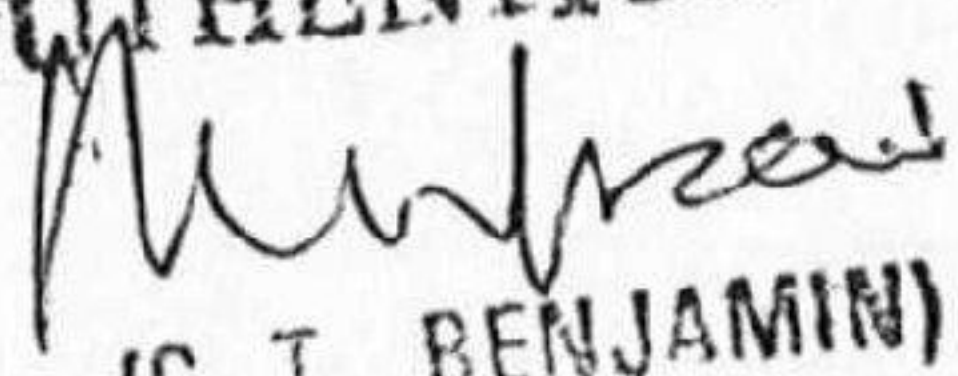
"139. Tambat, Twashta Kasar, Kansar"


(Justice Ram Surat Singh)


(C.T. Benjamin)


(Dr. B.M. Das)


(Smt. Neera Shastri)

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V. Advice of the Commission

The Commission considered and agreed in full with the above findings of the Maharashtra Bench and decided to tender the following advice to the Central Government under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the Act :-

"Twashtha Kasar" and "Kansar" as synonyms of "Tambat" be included at entry No. 139 in the central list of backward classes for Maharashtra as follows:-

"139. Tambat, Twashta Kasar, Kansar"

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Member Secretary
National Commission For
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