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सदस्य
राष्ट्रीय पिछड़
भारत

नई दिल्ली - 110 066
MEMBER-SECRETARY
NATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR BACKWARD CLASSES
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW DELHI - 110 066

DO NCBC Advice No. 1 Assam/98

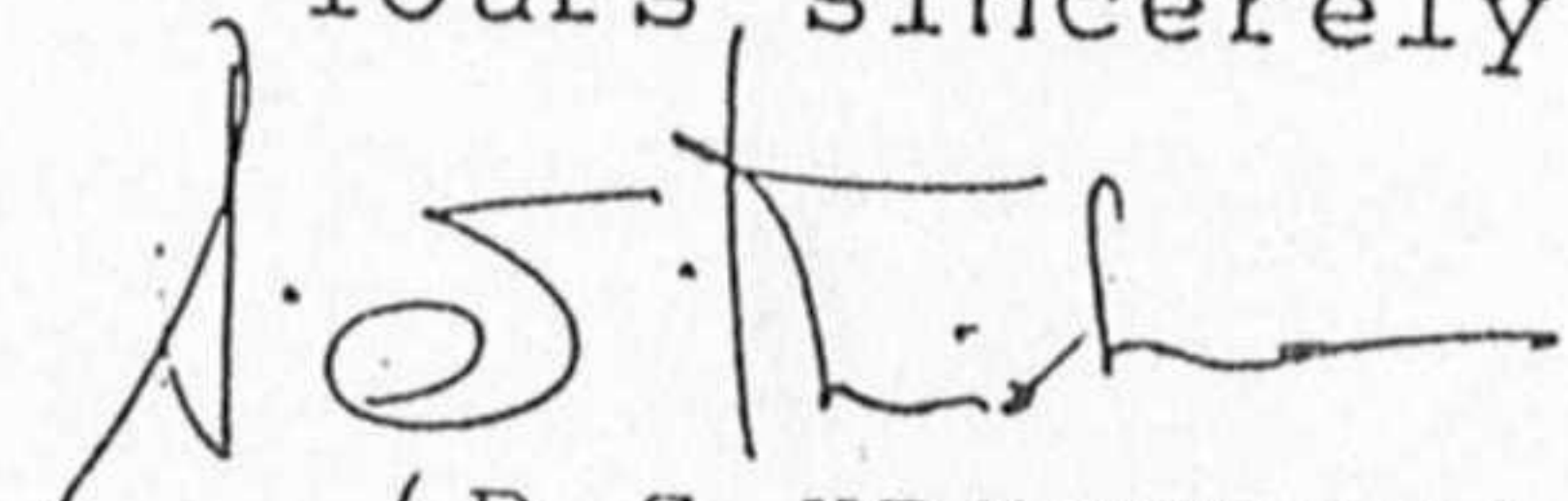
15. 04. 1998

Dear Shri Manavalan,

I am sending herewith the Advice of the National Commission for Backward Classes, under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act, 1993 for rejection of the Request for inclusion of 'Saifi' caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Assam, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the Act.

With Best wishes,

Yours sincerely


(P.S. KRISHNAN)

Encl: As stated

Shri D.K. Manavalan
Secretary to Govt. of India
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Shastri Bhavan
NEW DELHI

O/C

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

ASSAM BENCH

FINDINGS

Case: Request for inclusion of "Saifi" caste/community as a Synonym of Lohar, Barhai in the Central List of Backward Classes for Assam.

Per Shri Navtej Puadhi, Hon'ble Member

I. Request

This case arise from the Request received in the Commission from Shri M.Khan, Advocate, General Secretary, All India Saifi Federation, New Delhi for the inclusion of "Saifi" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Assam. Shri Khan in the Request has stated that "Saifi" is a synonym and or a surname adopted by the Muslim section of "Lohar" and "Barhai" caste/community, who are engaged in the traditional hereditary occupations of Wood work and Iron work be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Assam as a synonym of 'Lohar' or 'Barhai' which are already included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Assam.

AUTHENTICATED

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

II. Public Hearing

2. The two-Member Bench of the Commission for Assam consisting of Hon'ble Members, S/Shri Navtej Puadhi and Sahu Akshaya Bhai held a Public Hearing at Guwahati on 11.11.97 to examine this Request. At the Public Hearing the State Govt. was represented by the officials from the Department for Welfare of Plains Tribes and Backward Classes and State Commission for Backward Classes.

On behalf of the Federation or community no person appeared before the Bench for giving evidence or providing information.

III. Facts

3. "Saifi" caste/community was not included either in the Mandal List or the State List of OBCs for the State of Assam.

4. The information furnished in the NCBC's Questionnaire by the All India Saifi Federation, New Delhi contains the following facts in support of their caste/community's backwardness:-

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

ii). The occupation on which the members of the caste/community mainly depend for livelihood is wood and iron work which involves non-agricultural manual labour rendered for wages. Children of the caste/community, as a general practice, are, for their family's livelihood or for supplementing their family's low income are engaged in manual labour i.e. wood and iron work.

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Division
Classes

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Approximately 75 percent of the adult population of the caste/community is engaged in the traditional craft, 20 percent engaged in other manual labour for wage and remaining 5 percent engaged in services in Government, Public sector, Universities, Colleges and Schools etc.

iii). Their representation in the legislative Assembly and other elected bodies is nil.

iv). The literacy rate of the caste community in the State is quoted merely 5 percent.

v). 60 to 75 percent families of caste/community live in Kachcha houses and the rest in Pucca houses.

vi). A total number of 900 persons belonging to the caste/community are engaged in state level Public Undertakings/Autonomous establishments, besides 300 Teachers, 180 BIMS Doctors, 15 Lawyers and 3 Engineers and Architects belonging to the caste/community.

5. During the Public Hearing no representative of the caste/community appeared before the Bench. The Request itself has come from All India Saifi Federation, New Delhi alongwith the filled-up Questionnaire. The representatives of the State Government informed that no caste/community known as 'Saifi' exists in the State.

6. In Govt. of Assam list of Other Backward Classes issued on 27.11.75 "Barhai" has been notified as O.B.C. against Sl.No. 24(4) under the main Caste cluster of Tea Garden Labourers, Tea Garden Tribes, Ex-Tea Garden Labourers and Ex-Tea Garden Tribes. Lohar is also specified in State List of OBCs at Sl.No. 17 under the Major Head "Nepali". Further 'Saifi' Caste/Community was not included in State list or Mandal list of Assam alongwith Barhai or Lohar so could not be included in the Central List of OBC's on the basis of commonality.

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Member
Classes

7. As per Census of India, 1931 (with complete Survey of Tribal Life and Systems) by J.H.Hutton, Vol.II, Gian Publishing House, Delhi first reprinted in 1989 does not indicate the existence of Lohar and Barhai in Assam. The Census of India, 1931, Assam Part I-Report by C.S.Mullan, Manohar Publications, New Delhi, Reprint 1992 (First-Edition 1933) have no mention of Saifi as a caste/community or sub-caste of Barhai or Lohar in Assam.

8. First Backward Class Commission (known as Kaka Kalelkar Commission Report - Vol.II has included castes known as 'Kamar, Karmakar' and 'Kami (Nepali)' whose traditional occupation is blacksmithy and Gold. There is no mention of Barhai or Lohar.

IV. Findings

9. From the above evidence, it is the Finding of the Bench that 'Saifi' as a synonym of Barhai or Lohar Caste/Community is not found in the State of Assam. This was also confirmed by the Government officials who were present during the Public Hearing. Therefore the Request for inclusion of 'Saifi' as a synonym of Barhai or Lohar caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Assam is rejected.

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21/6/2011
(Navtej Puadhi)

2-4-98

Kshaya
01/04/98
(Sahu Akshaya Bhai)

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V. Advice of the Commission

10. The Commission considered and agreed in full with the above Findings of Assam Bench and decided to tender the following Advice to Central Government under section 9(1) of the NCBC Act, 1993 :-

"The request for inclusion of "Saifi" as synonym of Barhai or Lohar caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Assam is rejected as it does not exist in the State of Assam."

P. S. Thakur
2.4.98

Gov. Secy. Bishayam
2.4.98 01.04.98

P. Le. & Leg. Secy
6.1.98

Waydang
13.4.98

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P. S. Thakur
P. S. Thakur
for Backward Classes