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राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग
सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता मंत्रालय

भारत सरकार

ट्रिकूट-१, भीकाजी कामा प्लेस, नई दिल्ली - ११० ०६६

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT

Government of India

Trikoot-1, Bhikaiji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110 066

Tel. : 26183190 Fax : 26183227

एस. के. पुरकायस्थ

सदस्य सचिव

S. K. Purkayastha

Member-Secretary

NCBC Advice No.25/Delhi/2006

20 January, 2007

Dear Smt. Chhotray,

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 the rejection of the request for correction/amendment of entry 'Teli-Malik' as 'Teli (Muslim Malik)' in the Central List of OBCs for the NCT of Delhi, duly authenticated, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the NCBC Act.

With personal regards.

Yours sincerely,

(S.K. Purkayastha)

Smt. Veena Chhotray,
Secretary
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Shastri Bhawan
New Delhi

National Commission for Backward Classes

Delhi Bench

Case : Request for correction/amendment of entry "Teli-Malik" to "Teli (Muslim Malik)" in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the NCT of Delhi

I. REQUEST

This case arises from the request received in the National Commission for Backward Classes from Shri Malik Abdul Rehman Dehelvi, General Secretary, All India Muslim Malik Federation, 1772-73, Kucha Dakhni Rai, Darya Ganj, New Delhi-110 002 for inclusion of the caste/community "Teli (Muslim Malik) as a synonym to Teli" in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the NCT of Delhi.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

2. The Delhi Bench of the Commission consisting of Justice S. Ratnavel Pandian, Hon'ble Chairman, Shri S.K. Purkayastha, Hon'ble Member-Secretary and Shri Yogeshwar Prasad Yogesh, Hon'ble Member held a Public Hearing at the Court Room, Ground Floor, National Commission for Backward Classes, New Delhi on 10.11.2006 in respect of the requests received by the Commission. At the Public Hearing, the Govt. of NCT of Delhi was represented by Shri R.K. Srivastava, Secretary (SC/ST/OBC/Minority), Shri S.P. Singh, Member-Secretary, Commission for OBC and Shri D.K.

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(S.K. Purkayastha)
Member-Secretary
National Commission for Backward Classes
New Delhi

Rastogi, Deputy Director (SCP), Department of the Welfare of SC/ST/OBC/Minority.

III. Facts

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

Mandal List	:	82. Teli
State List	:	52. Teli
Central List	:	51. Teli, Teli-Malik

IV. Request

4. The request maker Shri Malik Abdul Rehman Dehelvi, General Secretary, All India Muslim Malik Federation, New Delhi in his initial representation to the Commission had mentioned that the caste/community Malik (Muslim) comprises of crores of persons scattered through out the country. They are financially, socially and educationally backward. The word Teli means those who extract oil from oil seeds but the word Teli is not taken respectfully in society and most of the community members have left the occupation so they do not like to be called 'Teli'. He has further requested that the title 'Malik (Muslim)' be added with already existing entry 'Teli, Teli-Malik'. The filled in Questionnaire was received in the Commission on 25.09.2006. Vide the filled in questionnaire, the General Secretary of the Association has mentioned the following:-

(a) General Data. The name of the main caste/community is Muslim Teli. The population of the caste/community in Delhi is approximately Ninety Thousand which is 4.7% of the total

Muslim OBCs as per Govt. Datas. Their caste/community is 0.16% of the total state population. The caste/community is spread all over the State. The members of the community follow Islam.

(b) Social. The caste/community persons are socially backward. They are mainly depending on labour work. The occupation is non-agricultural. This mainly involves manual labour on daily wage basis. For their family livelihood, the children of the caste/community are engaged in shops and factory work. 98% of their population are landless manual labourers.

(c) Educational. Nine thousand persons of the caste/community are literates. The literacy rate of the caste/community is 10% in the State. Out of the total literates, there are two thousand females are literates. Approximately five thousand persons are matriculates. The proportion of the total matriculates of the castes/communities with the State population is 1:2300. Out of the total number of matriculates of the caste/community in the state, the female matriculates are five hundred approximately. The proportion of total number of graduate of the caste/community to the total population of the caste/community in the State is 1:18. Proportion of total number of graduates in the State to the total population of the State is 1:23000.

(d) Economic. Of the houses in which the families of the caste/community are living, around fifty four thousand houses are *kachha* and another thirty six thousand houses are *pucca*. In the State Government services, there are twenty six persons

in Group A/Class I, thirty five persons in Group B/Class II, thirty eight persons in Group C/Class III and five persons in Group D/Class IV respectively. There are four persons working in State level Public Undertakings. There are fifteen Teachers in colleges and universities, two persons working in colleges and universities in administrative side. There are thirty doctors, twenty eight lawyers, fifteen Engineers and architects and four media professionals belonging to the caste/community.

(e) Miscellaneous. The main reasons on account of which the caste/community consider itself to be backward are mainly illiteracy and labour class. There has been occupation deterioration in the condition of the caste/community during the last twenty years, since their trade/craftsmanship to expel oil has been gradually abolished. Ansari and Saifi are the other castes/communities who are at a level immediately higher than this caste/community. Since Ansari (Bunkar Julaha) were given opportunities to avail reaservation in education and employment, they improved. Likewise Saifi (Lohar Badhai) were also given same reservation and got benefit to improve their social, educational and job status. The other communities which are backward castes/communities and more or less at the same level are Abbasi (waterman, saqqa) and Salmani, Nomani (Hajjam, Nai).

(f) The community has adopted new title as "Muslim Malik" just to get the respect and psychological reasons of backwardness to come up in the society. The new generation especially do not want to be called as "Teli" because so many

mis-myths are attached to it in the country. Hence, accepted the title "Muslim Malik" for themselves.

5. At the Public Hearing the following representatives appeared before the Bench and made their submissions as under:

Mohd Maulana Abdullah Tariq, General Secretary, All India Muslim Malik Federation introducing himself to the Bench submitted that Muslim Teli has been renamed as Muslim Malik. They have brought Muslim Teli society from different states under one umbrella by constituting an organization so that there is no misunderstanding regarding the name Teli Muslim Malik. Community people belonging to this caste have confirmed their association with the Muslim Malik so that they should have their separate identity i.e. Teli Muslim Malik. In ancient period people bestowed honour on Hazarat Khalifa but the situation has not remained the same afterwards. Answering to the query of Hon'ble Chairman whether they want any change in their caste name or they want to maintain the status-quo which they have stated in their application, Mohd. Maulana replied that they want the same name as mentioned in their application and do not want any change in it i.e. Teli (Muslim Malik). He stated that Teli (Malik Muslim) and Teli (Muslim Malik) are one and the same. Both the castes/communities names will serve the purpose.

Shri Islammuddin submitted that first of all, they are citizens of India. Earlier they were known as Teli and they remain the same even now. Earlier they were Hindus but now most of the Hindu Telis are converted to Muslim. The stigma attached with the Teli is applicable both to Hindu Teli as well as Muslim Teli. There is a saying that whosoever sees the face of Teli in the early morning, will

not get his day's food. To remove the stigma they want to add Mallik with Muslim Teli. The members of the community are scattered in different villages in different states. Some are known as Teli and have different surnames such as those who deal in Butchery are known as Butcher (Kasai). Even the common people pass remarks in very inferior way that "see the Butcher is going". So they wanted to delete this name and took the title Qureshi. They are Telis and we cannot deny this fact. In spite of all these, they are not reaping the benefit of development. They are also not educated. As Butchers (Kasai) have suffixed Qureshi with their name so they also want to include Muslim Malik with Teli for unity purpose and want to have a separate identity.

Shri Furkhan Malik stated that whenever they approached SDM Office for getting an OBC Certificate, they want verification regarding this. For this purpose they want to include Muslim Malik with Muslim Teli. Teli is common in both. In addition to this they want to include Muslim Malik as suffix so that they will get the benefit of OBC. Similarly, Kasai suffixes Qureshi in their names, Abbasi suffixes Salmani with Muslim. 80 to 90 % of Teli community wants to include Malik as "Teli Muslim Malik". Those residing in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh suffixes 'Siddiqui' with their names. In film industry, most of this community people even though do not belong to this community they suffix Khan as title. Most of them are Malik and in the Malik community, ninety to ninety five percent are backward. In spite of that they are not getting the benefit of their backwardness. If you include Muslim Malik with Teli, then they can get all the benefits from the Government which Teli are getting at present.

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Member - Secretary

National Commission for Backward Classes
New Delhi

Shri Mohd. Shamoon stated that they want Malik to be included with Teli because the word Teli somehow is not a respected word in society. They want to keep Teli but also at the same time want to have Malik Muslim with it.

Shri Taufiq Malik appeared before the Hon'ble Bench and mentioned that they have been trying to get Muslim Teli and Muslim Malik under the OBC category from 1990 onwards but succeeded only in 1995. From 1995 to 2006, they have demanded to include their class in the Backwards. Kasai suffixes Qureshi with their names, Blacksmiths, Carpenters suffix Saifi with their names. Similarly they call themselves Muslim and they want their caste to be called in similar way in the OBC List.

Hon'ble Member Shri Yogeshwar Prasad Yogesh cited examples from Holy Quran and wanted to know whether the Teli Malik Muslim comes under backward class or not because in the olden days they were very respected people. Shri Taufiq Malik, informed that he has no information about the tradition prevalent in the olden days, but at present their social status is not well off.

Shri Ashish Gupta, resident of 91-A, Darya Ganj, New Delhi-110 002 also appeared before the Hon'ble Bench and stated that attention is to be paid to the fact that forwards take advantage of inclusion as OBC. There has to be proper investigation before including the caste. Teli has already been included in the whole country. Most of the people face problems in getting OBC certificates because this has become very controversial issue. No SDM signs the certificate without proper verification. There is need for a Government body with public representation to have supervision on

this. There has to be a grievance redressal cell for Other Backward Classes.

Mohd Maulana Abdullah Tariq, while replying to a query by Hon'ble Member-Secretary Shri S.K. Purkayastha regarding the branches of their organization stated that they have branches all over the country.

Shri Ashish Gupta stated that this problem is with the entire Teli community. He further suggested that entire Teli Community should be included. Uttar Pradesh has included Muslim Malik as Teli.

Shri Furkhan appeared before the Hon'ble Bench and stated that because of different names adopted, they face difficulty in obtaining certificates. Only 5% Maliks are forwards. 90 to 95 % are backwards

Hon'ble Chairman, Justice S. Ratnavel Pandian stated that he was happy that he has heard all of the representationists and will give deep consideration to the proposal. He further stated that the caste/community has been mentioned in the State List at Sl.No.52 as Teli. This includes both Hindus and Muslims excluding those in SCs. For which the request-maker says that it should be Teli (Muslim Malik). In UP State List, it has been mentioned as Teli-Malik (Muslim).

Shri S.P. Singh, Member-Secretary, Commission for OBCs, Govt. of NCT of Delhi stated that the proposal to include Teli (Muslim Malik) in the State List of Delhi was considered by the Delhi Commission but not found acceptable. The representation was from

All India Teli Federation. The extracts of the recommendation of Delhi State Backward Classes Commission is as under:-

“Muslim-Teli, Malik (Teli), Rogangar, Samani

Muslim Telis. This community even though already standing on the OBC List had wanted certain additional nomenclatures to be included as synonyms, such as Rogangar, Samani, Malik-Teli. We found all these claims to be verifiable; the socio-economic-educational conditions as examined by us already (as available in the comparative tables through out the report) give all these sub-categories a ‘lowly’ status. So, in case the Commission in its judgement, decides to concede this demand of theirs, this would only be re-affirming its preexisting decision regarding the Muslim-telis; of course, this does not change the position of Hindu-telis as they already stand included in the list.”

Hon’ble Chairman further stated that there is a community called ‘Vaniar’ in the Tamil Nadu whereas another community called as ‘Vanniar’. There arose a confusion because of spelling error. This should not happen in this case. Therefore, the Commission must be very careful in this matter.

Hon’ble Member-Secretary Shri S.K. Purkayastha asked the representatives of the caste/community that they are saying that Malik has been adopted by Muslm Teli. In the “People of India” series by Shri K.S. Singh, there is a chapter on ‘Teli Muslims’ which says that members of younger generation identify themselves with a category by suffixing Siddiqui or Sheikh. Then how do they say that all people are known by the name of Muslim Malik?

Shri Furkhan replied that they have an All India Federation and everyone has accepted this proposal. All members of the caste/community are considering adopting Malik and they have started writing Malik.

6. **Shri Shafi Dehelvi**, Principal General Secretary, All India Muslim Teli Conference (Registered), Y-9, Turkman Gate, Delhi-110 006 has sent a written submission to the National Commission for Backward Classes dated 10th November, 2006 with reference to the Public Hearing in respect of Teli (Muslim Malik). It has been stated that All India Muslim Teli Conference is a registered organization which represents the Muslim Teli on all India basis. Muslim Teli caste/community is spread over in 25 States/UTs in India and are socially, educationally most backward. They do not use any title or surname. There are 53 gotras of Telis but they are all known by the name Teli only. Now only people residing in Delhi and nearby areas are saying that they are using the title 'Malik'. The Malik is a title also used by Jat, Bhatiara, Gujar, Gadaria etc. Besides this, no where there other communities use the title 'Malik'.

7. The Commission also referred to the following Ethnographic Accounts regarding the caste/community:-

People of India : Delhi by Shri K.S. Singh

Teli (Muslim). The Teli are divided into the Teli and Dhuniya Teli subgroups. The etymological connotation of its name is derived from tel (oil) because of its traditional occupation of operating kolhoo (oil pressers). Some of them took up the lucrative occupation of cotton-carding during winter and thus came to be known as Dhuniya Teli.....



The Teli consider themselves occupationally and socially superior to the Dhuniya Teli but now this differentiation has weakened.....Women inherit equally from the one-third portion of paternal property. Their economic roles within the family are limited. Only a few of them contribute to the family income. They are considered maatahat (subordinate) to men.

The Teli Muslim's traditional occupation is oil pressing. At present, they are also employed as labourers, or in business, trade, or in government service. Women are engaged in sewing, and zardozi and metal work. Some of them run pickle shops. Child labour is common and wages are paid in cash. Their traditional occupation is being replaced by other types of employment due to the astronomical price of land in the walled city. They have a positive attitude towards education and boys and girls study up to the postgraduate level.

8. The Bench after careful consideration of the available evidence and submission took note of the following:-

- (i) The caste/community 'Teli-Malik' was included at entry No.51 alongwith the existing entry Teli in the Central List of OBCs for the NCT of Delhi on the request of All India Muslim Malik Federation, Rahmatullah Building, H. Nizamuddin, New Delhi in 1997.
- (ii) No demand for prefixing of Muslim to Malik was made at the time of Public Hearing held on 02.07.1997 for inclusion of Teli-Malik in the Central List of OBCs for the NCT of Delhi at entry No.51 of the Central List of OBCs.

- (iii) The Delhi State Backward Classes Commission rejected the representation of All India Teli Federation for inclusion of 'Teli (Muslim Malik) on the basis of OBCs Survey for the State of Delhi (1997-1998);
- (iv) In the present case it has been submitted that the Hindu Telis who got converted to Islam also used the title Malik.
- (v) Teli caste/community appears in the Central List of OBCs in the other States as follows:-

<u>State</u>	<u>Entry</u>	
Uttar Pradesh	23	Teli, Samani, Rogangar, Teli-Malik (Muslim), Teli Sahu, Teli Rathore
Madhya Pradesh (Islamic Group)	59(20)	Teli, Nayata, Pindari (Pindara)
Maharashtra	158	Teli, Teli-Lingayat, Teli Sahu, Teli Rathod, Ganiga
Manipur	4	Teli (who have been domiciled in Manipur for 10 years, and their descendents)
Orissa	162	Teli, Telli, Kubara/Kubera, Talakar, Sahu/Sahoo, Bahaldia
Punjab	60	Teli
Rajasthan	51	Teli
Tripura	34	Teli (Oriya)
West Bengal	13	Teli
Chandigarh	53	Teli
Assam	25	Teli
Bihar	53	Teli
Haryana	56	Teli
Jammu & Kashmir	19	Teeli, Teli (Rural only)

Except for Uttar Pradesh where Teli (Malik-Muslim) has been included nowhere in other entries the word Muslim has been prefixed or suffixed nor there was any such demand from other Teli associations in other states.

- (vi) The community wants to prefix Muslim to Malik, i.e. Teli (Muslim Malik) to get respect and for psychological reasons of backwardness to come up in the society. The new generation do not want to be called as 'Teli' because many mis-myths are attached to it. There seems to be no justification put forth for changing the nomenclature of the entry, since their request was for prefixing Muslim to 'Malik' in the entry 'Teli-Malik' for amending the entry as "Teli (Muslim Malik)" because of the stigma attached to the term "Teli" and Teli finds place in the earlier entry and the present request.
- (vii) It was also submitted that earlier their association was known as All India Muslim Malik Federation but now they have changed the name of the association as All India Teli Muslim Malik Federation. The Federation wants to be associated and identified with the entry. As such they want to amend the entry prefixing the word Muslim to Malik, to read the entry as Teli (Muslim Malik) instead of the existing entry Teli-Malik in the Central List of OBCs for the NCT of Delhi. The Commission noted that at the time of inclusion of Teli-Malik also, the same organization All India Muslim Malik Federation had made the request and did not make any demand for prefixing the word 'Muslim' at that time.

- (viii) It has been submitted that the Federation has got the confirmation from all the associations through out the country for amending the entry as Teli (Muslim-Malik). But no representation for amendment or prefixing the word 'Muslim' to 'Malik' in the entry in other States have been received in the Commission. Representation has only been received in the present case for amending the entry as Teli (Muslim Malik) in the Central List of OBCs for the NCT of Delhi.
- (ix) Surname/Title Malik is used by Muslims as well as Hindus who have converted to Islam. As such amendment/prefixing of Muslim to the Malik will debar those Telis who are only adopting the surname Malik from the benefit of OBCs.
- (x) The members of the Teli community are getting certificates as Teli for Hindus and Teli-Malik for Muslims.
- (xi) It has also been clarified by them that only Muslim Telis have adopted the surname/title Teli-Malik.
- (xii) Prefixing of Muslim to Malik in the existing entry Teli-Malik i.e. Teli (Muslim Malik) will restrict the benefit to only Muslims who are using the title Malik.
- (xiii) The difficulties experienced in getting the Certificate is of general nature and prefixing 'Muslim' will not solve the problem. At the same time, it may debar the Telis who are using only Malik as their surname or title.

- (xiv) As per the written submission made by the All India Muslim Teli Conference, it is seen that the title Malik is not used throughout the country by the Muslims. Only some educated and advanced people are using this title to hide the stigma attached to "Teli". They do not use any title or surname. There are 53 gotras of Telis but they are all known by the name Teli only. The title Malik is also used by the Jat, Bhatiara, Gujar, Gadaria etc. As such changing the nomenclature of the caste/community will suddenly debar many of the genuine OBCs i.e. Telis using this title.

V. FINDINGS

9. From the evidence and documents presented at the time of Public Hearing, and other informations available it is the finding of the Bench that their traditional occupation is oil pressing. "Malik" is a surname/title adopted by the members of this community. The Hindus who are in this profession are known as Telis. Muslim and Hindus who have converted to Islam use the title Malik and are known as Teli-Malik. No fresh evidence whatsoever has been put forth to prefix the word Muslim to the existing entry Teli-Malik in the Central List of OBCs for the NCT of Delhi. There seems to be no justification put forth for changing the nomenclature of the entry, since their request was for prefixing Muslim to 'Malik' in the entry 'Teli-Malik' for amending the entry as "Teli (Muslim Malik)" because of the stigma attached to the term "Teli" and Teli finds place in the earlier entry and the present request. Any amendment/prefixing in

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(S.K. Purkayastha)
Member-Secretary
National Commission for Backward Classes
New Delhi

the existing entry will create confusion and may also debar the genuine OBCs i.e. Telis, who are using the surname/Title Malik from the benefit. Also the entries of Teli caste/community in the Central List of OBCs is not uniform and varies from State to State and UTs.



(Justice S. Ratnavel Pandian)
Chairperson



(S.K. Purkayastha)
Member-Secretary



(Yogeshwar Prasad Yogesh)
Member

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(S.K. Purkayastha)
Member - Secretary
National Commission for Backward Classes
New Delhi

VI. ADVICE OF THE COMMISSION

10. The Commission considered and agreed in full with the above findings 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:-

“The request for correction/amendment of entry ‘**Teli-Malik**’ as ‘**Teli (Muslim Malik)**’ in the Central List of OBCs for the NCT of Delhi be rejected.”



(Justice S. Ratnavel Pandian)
Chairperson



(S.K. Purkayastha)
Member-Secretary

(Yogeshwar Prasad Yogesh)
Member

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(S.K. Purkayastha)
Member - Secretary
National Commission for Backward Classes
New Delhi