



सी.टी. बेंजामिन
C.T. BENJAMIN
Tel. : 6183190
Fax : 6183227

रादरय राधिय
राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग

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भारत सरकार

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

Member Secretary

National Commission for Backward Classes
Government of India

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

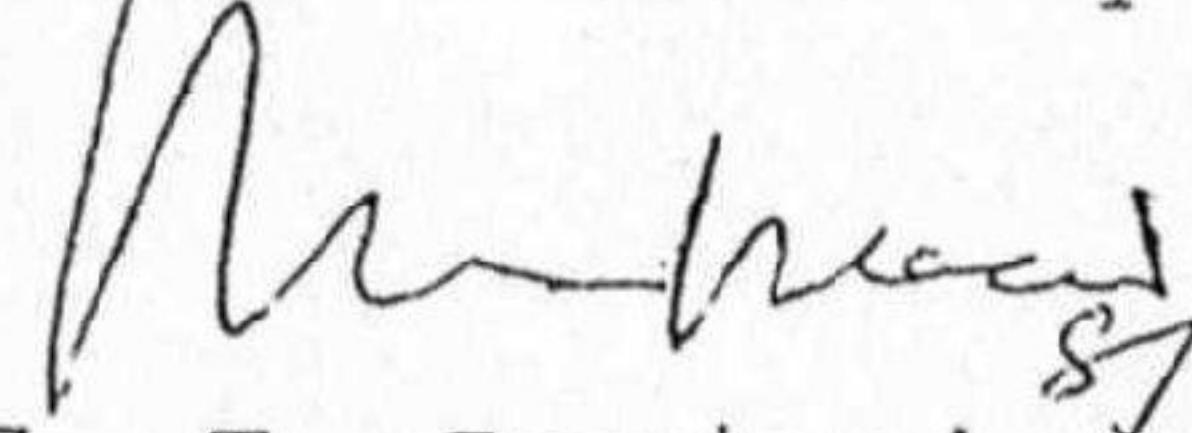
NCBC Advice No. Haryana/35/2001

08.06.2001

Dear Smt. Asha Das,

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 "Lodhi" as a synonym of "Lodh, Lodha" caste/community in the Central list of backward classes for Haryana, duly authenticated, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the Act.

Yours sincerely

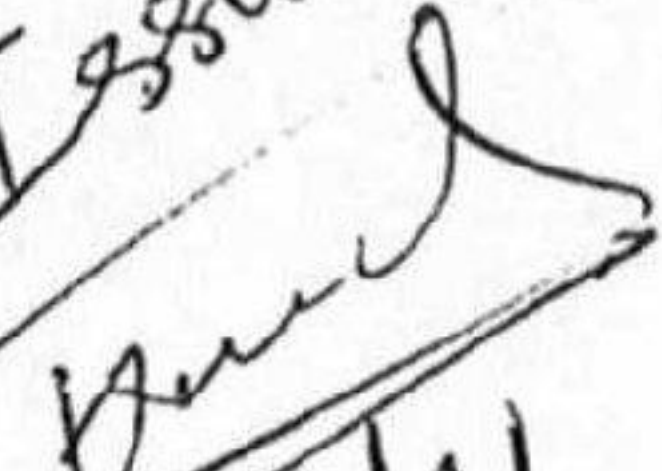

(C. T. Benjamin) 8/6/01

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

Encl: As stated

o/c

Issued.


8/6/01

NCBC. Advice No. Haryana/35/2001

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

Haryana Bench

FINDINGS

Case :- Request for inclusion of "Lodh, Lodha, Lodhi" castes/ communities in the central list of backward classes for Haryana.

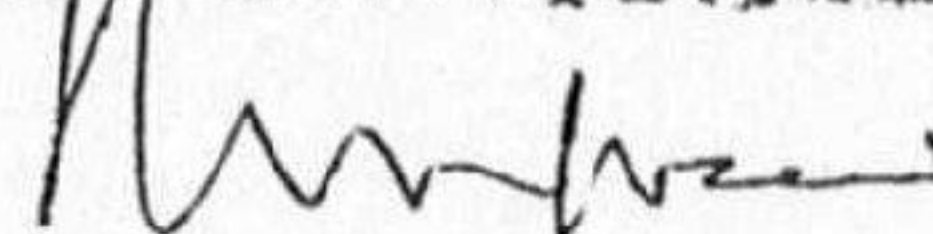
I. Request

1. This case arises from the Request received in this Commission from Shri Digpal Singh, General Secretary, Lodhi (Rajput) Sabha, Ballabgarh (Faridabad), Haryana for inclusion of "Lodh, Lodha, Lodhi" castes/communities in the central list of backward classes for Haryana.

II. Public Hearing

2. The two-Member Bench of the Commission consisting of Shri M.S. Matharoo and Dr. B.M. Das, Hon'ble Members of the National Commission for Backward Classes hold a Public Hearing at Chandigarh on 25.05.2001 to examine this request for inclusion in the central list of backward classes for Haryana. At the Public Hearing the State Government was represented, inter alia, by Shri Bhagwati Parshad, Secretary, Shri R.R. Jovellas, Director from Social Welfare and SCs & BCs Welfare Department and Shri Satbir Verma, Chairman and Shri Raj Kumar Jogi, Member from Haryana State Backward Classes Commission. At the Public Hearing neither the memorialist nor any member of the caste appeared. However, the request-maker met one of the Bench Members after the Public Hearing and

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handed over a letter from Shri Chhatra Pal Singh, M.P. thereby requesting for inclusion of Lodha Samaj in the Central List of Backward Classes for Haryana.

III. Facts

3. The relevant entries in different lists reflected as follows:-

Mandal List

"4. Balasaria, Bhagat, Bhara, Gagan, Kanwan, Kawandal, Kawdeya, Khiri, Kunkani, Loda, Lodha, Lodia, Mandi, Niwan, Ramka, Thira

State List

"3. Lodh/ Lodha" Block 'B'

Central List

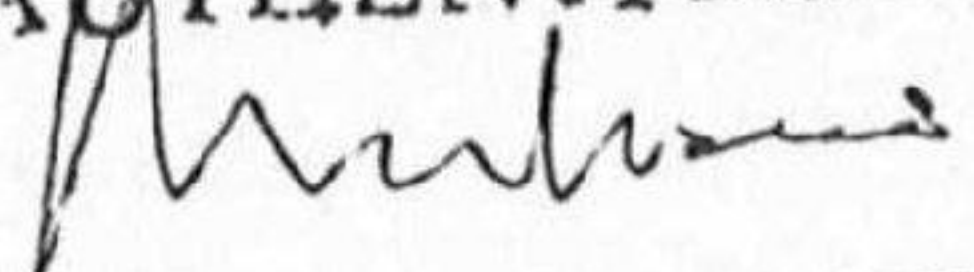
"66. Lodh/ Lodha"

4. At the Public Hearing the State Govt. representatives presented a brief note to the Bench in respect of Lodh/Lodha/Lodhi and Lodhi Rajput castes/communities based on the reports of Commissions for Backward Classes of various states, book on Punjab Castes and representations received from different applicants/ organizations. The concluding part of the note is reproduced as follows:

"On perusal of reports of all Commissions, book on castes and facts, it is concluded that the Lodhi caste be included in Central List of BCs alongwith Lodh/Lodha being a synonymous of this caste"

5. At the Public Hearing Sh. Bhagwati Parshad, Secretary, Social Welfare and SCs & BCs Welfare Department stated that the population of the Lodhi caste is very less and sparsely distributed throughout the state. The population of caste as mentioned in the questionnaire i.e. 18 lakhs, is not correct. Lodhi is a local

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vernacular or local usage name of Lodh/Lodha. Lodh/Lodha have already been included in the Central List and therefore, it would be appropriate to include Lodhi along with them.

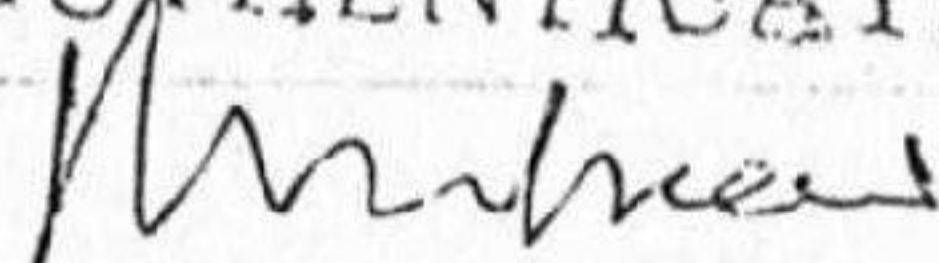
6. The filled-up NCBC's questionnaire submitted by Shri Digpal Singh, General Secretary, Lodhi (Rajput) Sabha comprises that the "Lodh, Lodha, Lodhi" is the main caste/ community. In some places the caste/community is also known as Lodhi Rajput. Mali, Saini, Pal, Nai, Mallah, Kachhi, Ahir, Meo are the other name of the caste/community. The Population of the caste/ community in the state is 18,000 and it is 1.4% of the total OBC population of the State. The caste/ community is spread over the districts of Faridabad, Sonapat, Karnal and Ambala. It is listed backward in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, M.P., U.P. and Haryana. The caste/community profess Hindu Religion. Most of the caste/community people work as a manual labourers and factory workers. Ninety five percent of its members mainly depend on manual labour and 98% are landless.

The number of literates in the caste/community is 10,500. The number of female matriculates of the caste/community in the state is 600 while the total number of graduates is mentioned as 1600 of which female graduates are 50. Thirty per cent people live in kachha houses, 20% in pucca houses and rest are living in rented houses. The following number of members are in various professions:-

i) Teachers in colleges and universities	6
ii) Administrative personnel in colleges and universities	2
iii) Lawyers	10
iv) Engineers & Architects	10

The reasons stated for backwardness of the caste/community are poor economic condition, lack of education, non availability of agricultural land

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and business. Ahir/Rao/Yadav and Gujjar castes/communities are said to be at a level immediately higher to them and Meo at equal level.

7. W. Crooke in his book, "The Tribes And Castes of the North Western India" (published by Cosmo Publications, Delhi, reprinted in 1975, Vol. III, pp. 364- 367), describes "Lodhi" under the head "Lodha" as, "Under the name of Lodhi they are found widely spread throughout the Central Provinces; in some places they have a reputation for turbulence and defiance of the law; they seem all to be comparatively recent immigrants from the direction of Bundelkhand.. They may possibly be an off- shoot from the Great Kurmi tribe and it is certain that physically they are more allied to the lower or so-called aboriginal section of the population than to any of the higher castes." "All through the Province they are tenants and field labourers, and are considered to be good agriculturists, with a special aptitude for growing rice."

8. K.S. Singh in the book "India's Communities - People of India Series", Vol.V, Anthropological Survey of India, 1998, pp. 2006-2010), citing Crooke's account describes the caste/community under the head Lodha as, "They call themselves derivations have been suggested for the term Lodha, such as Sanskrit word lodha, the bark of the symplocos racemosay tree used in dying, and the Sanskrit word lubdhake, meaning a hunter. He further add 'under the name of Lodhi they are found widely spread, throuout the Central Provinces. They seem all to be comparatively recent immigrants from the direction of Bundelkhand. The Lodha of Uttar Pradesh claim Narwar in Jhansi as the original habitat of the community after their migration from Ludhiana in Punjab and they came to Bundelkhand about a thousand years ago.' The Lodha are an agricultural community. Besides cultivation, they rear cattle, work as agricultural labourers and make ropes. They are also engaged in business, service and self employment.. The community has a traditional caste council at the village level. An association at regional level, the Lodhi Rjput Sabha, upholds traditional community customs and norms.

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Member Secretary
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They are Hindu, and traditionally accept food and water from all communities except the scheduled castes. They share wells and other sources of water, crematoria, and visit shrines along with others. Patron-client and landlord-tenant relationships are maintained with other communities.

In Rajasthan, the Lodha are mainly distributed in the Bharatpur district. They claim Rajput descent and identify themselves with the Lodi Rajput."

9. "A Glossary of the Tribes and Castes of the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province, by H.A. Rose, published by Asian Educational Services, 1990" describes "Lodha, Lodhi, Lodhke, Lodh, Loda or Lod, like the Kachhi, a well-known cultivating caste of Hindustan, found in the Punjab chiefly in the Jumna Districts, though a few of them have moved on westwards to the great cantonments. Almost without exception Hindu the Lodhas are said to be distinct from the Lodhi outcasts of Central India; but the Lodhas of Delhi would appear to be of very low social standing.

10. "Lodhi" along with "Lodh, Lodha" has been included in the Central List of Backward Classes for neighbouring states of Delh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh and other states of Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

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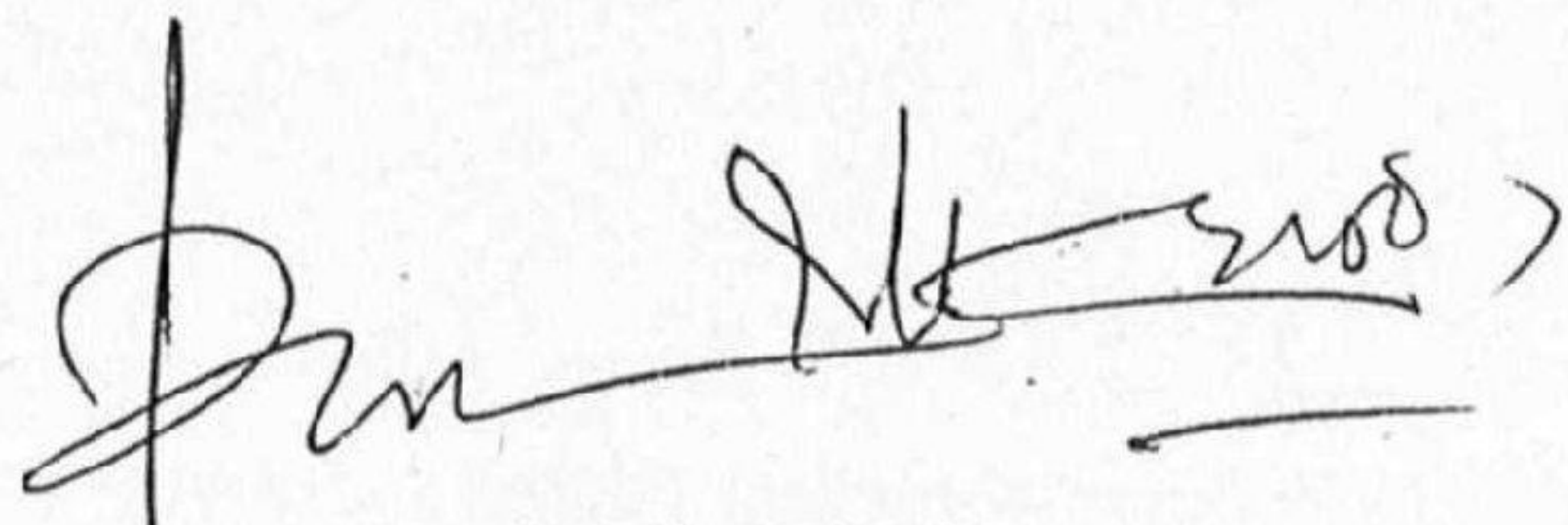
Findings

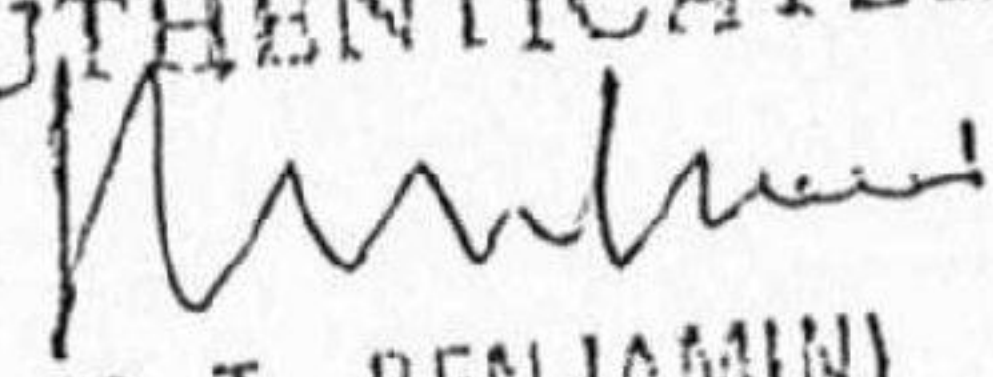
11. The memorialist has made a request for inclusion of Lodh, Lodha, Lodhi in the Central List of Backward Classes for Haryana. Lodh/Lodha have already found place in the Central List of Backward Classes for Haryana on the basis of principle of commonality by the Expert Committee (i.e. castes/communities those were common in both the Mandal List as well State List that existed at that time).

12. From the foregoing material and ethnographic evidences, it emerges that "Lodhi" is a synonym of "Lodh/Lodha". The State Govt. officials present at the Public Hearing stated that "Lodhi" is a vernacular or local usage name of "Lodh/Lodha" and also supported the claim of request-maker for its inclusion in the Central List of Backward Classes for Haryana. The Bench thus concludes that "Lodhi" is a synonym of "Lodh/Lodha". The synonyms of an existing entry in the Central Lists 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, "Lodhi" caste/community be included in the central list of backward classes for Haryana as a synonym of "Lodh/Lodha" by removing oblique and putting commas in between the entries as follows:-

"66. Lodh, Lodha, Lodhi"


(Dr. B.M. Das)


(M.S. Matharoo)

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(C. T. BENJAMIN)
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V. Advice of the Commission

12. The commission considered and agreed in full with the above findings of the Haryana 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.

"Lodhi" caste/community be included in the central list of backward classes for Haryana as a synonym of "Lodh/Lodha" by removing oblique and putting commas in between the entries as follows:-

"66. Lodh, Lodha, Lodhi"

By.
7/10/01

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AUTHENTICATED
[Signature]
(C. T. BENJAMIN)
Member Secretary
National Commission For
Backward Classes