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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

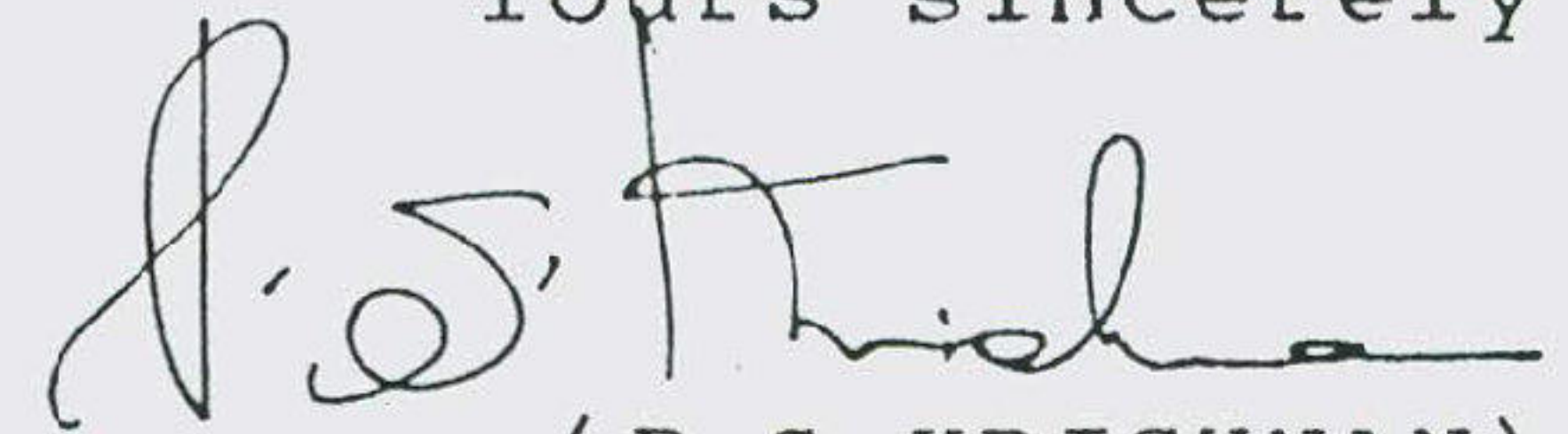
NCBC Advice No. Orissa 57/99

14.06.1999

Dear Smt. Das,

I am sending herewith the Advice of the National Commission for Backward Classes under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act for the Rejection of the Request for inclusion of "Oda Pradhan" and "Odra Pradhan" 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.

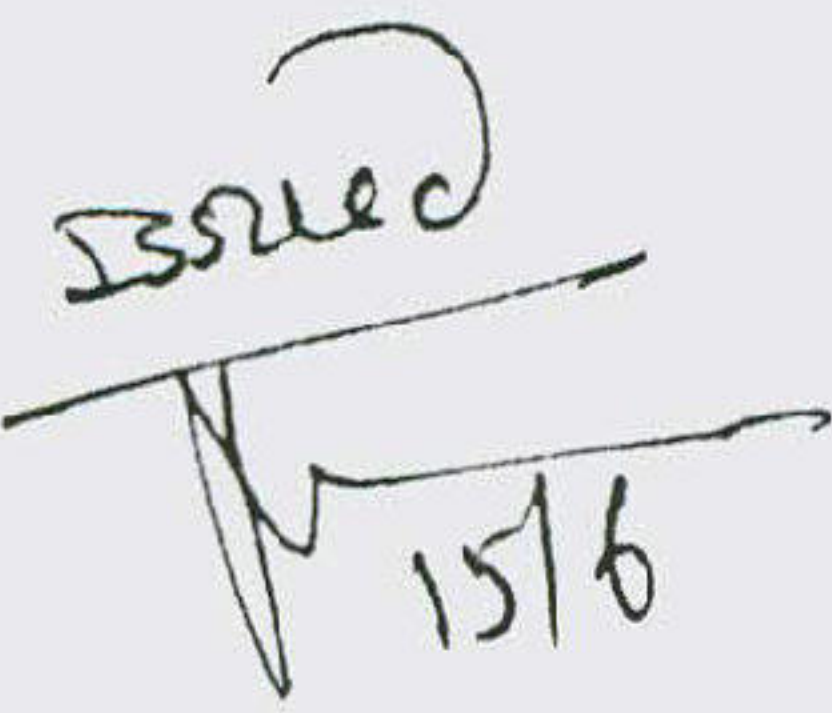
Yours sincerely


(P.S. KRISHNAN)

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Encl: As stated.

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

Issued

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NCBC Advise No.57 Orissa/99

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

ORISSA BENCH

FINDINGS

Case : Request for inclusion of Oda Pradhan and Odra Pradhan in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa.

Per Shri U. P. Singh, Member

I. Request

These cases arise from the requests received in this Commission from Dr. Y. Khatua, General Secretary Bisal Orissa, Udra Mahasangha at P. O. Podamarari, Distt. Cuttack, Shri Ranendra Pratap Swain, M. L. A & others for inclusion of Oda Pradhan and Shri Balram Patra, Cuttack, Orissa for inclusion of Odra Pradhan in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa.

II. Public Hearing

2. The 2-Member Bench of the Commission consisting of Hon'ble Members Shri U. P. Singh and Shri Sahu Akshaya Bhai held a Public Hearing to examine the requests for inclusion of Oda Pradhan and Odra Pradhan in the Central List for Backward Classes for Orissa on 09.10.98 at Bhubaneswar. The State Govt. was represented by Shri. R. B. Naik. Director O.B.C. and the State Commission was represented by Shri Bharat Bhusan Jagdev, Adiministrative Officer. Nobody appeared on behalf of these castes/sub-castes/synonyms/communities.

III. Facts

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

Mandal List

"183. Pradhan"

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Secretary
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for Backward Classes

State List

“27. Chasa, Pradhan, Padhan, Odapadhan and Oda Chasa.

Central List

“177. Chasa (This entry of Chasa is meant to conform to entry No. 27 Chasa in Orissa State OBC List).

The caste was included in the List on Advice of the commission tendered to the Central Government vide NCBC Advice NO. Orissa/11/96 dated 21-06-96.

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 List 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 the 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. Oda Pradhan and Odra Pradhan were not included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa because these sub-castes/synonyms were not included both in the Mandal List and the State List existed at that time. On advise of the State commission for Backward Classes, the State Government vide Resolution No.21863-OBC-4/95-W dated 25-08-95 included Pradhan, Padhan and Oda Pradhan in the State List at entry No. 27 as synonyms/sub-castes of Chasa.

5. Regarding 'Pradhan' which is included in the Mandal List, Justice N. K. Das Commission Observed as follows :-

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 Backward Classes

“Sl. No. 183, Pradhan is only a surname. It does not relate to a caste and it covers people of many castes and as such it should be replaced by “Chasa.”

Consequently in the State List of Backward Classes, notified by the State Govt. on the basis of Das Commission Report, ‘Pradhan’ did not find a place.

The Orissa State Commission for Backward Classes received request for inclusion of Pradhan in the List of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes. On the basis of the Statements made by the representatives of ‘Pradhan’ caste and other documentary evidence, as recorded in the Advice, the State Commission held that Chasa, Pradhan, Padhan, Odapadhan and Odachasa are one and the same and are inferior to Khandayat caste. The community was held to be socially, educationally and economically backward and recommended for addition of the caste names, Pradhan, Padhan, Odapadhan and Odachasa as synonyms of Chasa.

The State Commission held Pradhan, Padhan, Odapadhan and Odachasa as caste names and synonyms of Chasa caste. Contrary to this, during the Public Hearing by the Orissa Bench of this Commission, the representatives of the State Government and the people belonging to different castes/communities stated that ‘Pradhan’ is a title/surname of Khandayat caste and ‘Pradhan’ is a title used by members of Chasa, Khandayat and other castes. Shri Bikalpa Kumar Pradhan, a member of Khandayat caste stated that ‘Pradhan’ is a title used by both ‘Chasa’ and ‘Khandayat’ castes. ‘Pradhans’ belonging to Chasa caste are getting OBC certificates for Central Govt. service, but ‘Pradhans’ who belong to Khandayat caste are deprived of such facilities.

6. In his request for inclusion of Oda Pradhan caste in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa, Dr. Y. Khatua, General Secretary, Bisal Orissa Udra Mahasangha, Cuttack has stated that the population of Oda Pradhan caste is about 15% of the total population of the State. These people have Khatua, Jena, Rout, Sahu, Pradhan, Patayat, Swain, Parida etc. as their designation. More than 98% of the people of this caste depend upon Agriculture and land labour. More than 80% people are below poverty line.

7. Shri Ranendra Pratap Swain, Shri Amulya Kumar Swain and Shri Bhagyadhar Behera have requested for inclusion of Pradhan, Oda Pradhan, Chasa, Oda Chasa in the

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Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa and enclosed a copy of the request made by Shri Amulya Kumar Swain to the Orissa State Commission for Backward Classes for inclusion of Oda Padhan in the State List, in which it is stated that Chasa community is divided in many sub-castes namely Oda Padhan, Oda Chasa etc. and the members of the sub-caste hold the surnames like Swain, Rout, Parida, Jena, Behera, Beuria, Lenka, Pradhan etc. The members of the caste are facing difficulty in getting OBC Certificate because in the original 'Patta' the name of sub-caste is written as Oda Padhan.

8. In their request for inclusion of Odra Pradhan caste in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa, Shri Balaram Patra and Harihar Pradhan have stated that the Odra Pradhans are socially, educationally and economically Backward. About 99% of Odras are engaged in farming. They have given the following points in support of their request :

- i). An ancient race named Odras lived with Sabaras in this land. (p. 1, Orissa Etihasa, 1948, Harekrishan Mohtab).
- ii). The Odra Pradhans are socially out castes/socially inferior race of Khetriyas belongs to Aryans (1937, Akshaya Kumar Chakrabati)
- iii). Manu described the Odra as a socially inferior race of Khetriyas. (1914- Orissa History, Parimohan Bal).
- iv). In the Ramayan and in the Mahabharat the Odras are considered among many non-Aryans. From this it is supposed that the Odras belong to Non-Aryan tribes (1914, Orissa History – Parimohan Bal).
- v). Due to the lack of good company and education, the Physical, the moral and the social down fall of the Odras are found to recognise. (Odra Khetriya Prava, Damodar Routray)
- vi). The Odras are divided into two classes Vatras and Haluas (Utkal Etihās – Krupasindhu Mishra)

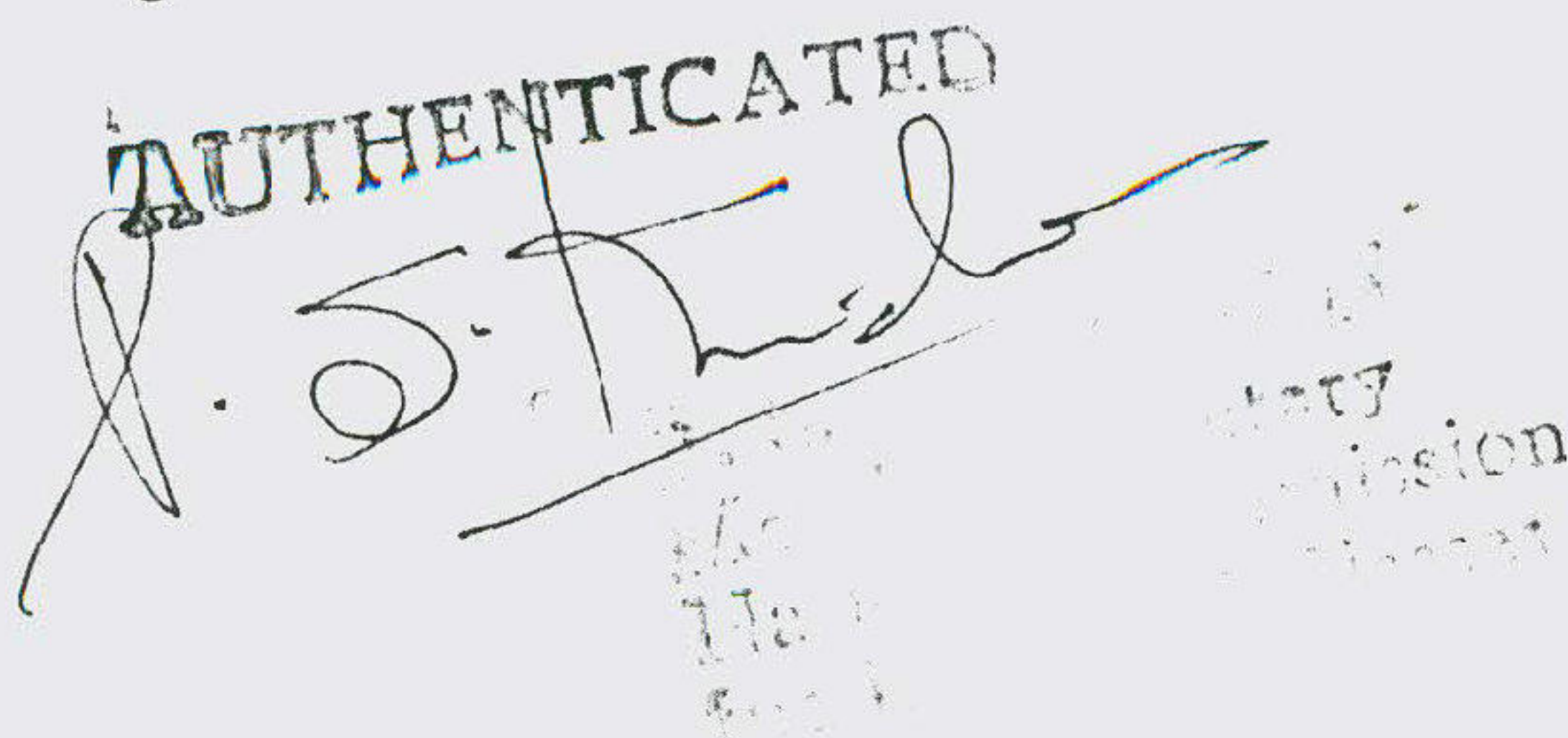
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 Secretary
 Orissa State Commission for Backward Classes

- vii). Tathodran drabidan cholan schaib sa kelalam (the Ramayan)
- viii). Pandascha drabidam schaib sahitam kelalai (Mahabharat)
- ix). Most of the Odras are living on agriculture (Utkal Etihasa, Krupasindhu Mishra)
- x). "Now some of the Odras have established themselves as Khandayats" (1914, Utkal Etihasa, Krupasindhu Mishra)
- xi). In dravidian language 'Okkal' and 'Odasu' means 'Chasa'. Now a days in Kannada language 'Chasa' is also called 'Okkalgar' from these 'Okla' and 'Odasu' the aryas used Utkal and "Odra" words. (Orissa Etihasa, Harekrishna Mohatab).

He further stated that in the country they are known as 'Chasa' and looked down upon by other superior castes. Most of the 'Odra Pradhans' are engaged in agricultural occupation. Most of the Odras in Government records are described as 'Odra Pradhans'. They have social, moral and family relations with Khandayats, Chasas and Paikas which are taken as other backward castes in the State List.

9. Edgar Thurston & K. Rangachari (Castes and Tribes of Southern India, vol. V, Asian Educational Services, New Delhi, Madras, Reprint, 1993, First published, 1909, pp. 436-438) under the title 'Odiya' writes as, "It is noted, in the Madras Census Report, 1891, that "this is the principal Uriya caste of farmers in Ganjam. Oda and Uriya are different forms of one and the same word, and this caste name simply means a native of the Odia or Uriya country as Telaga means a man of Telugu country. In both cases, therefore, we find a number of persons included, who are in reality members of some other castes. ----- It is further recorded, in the Census Report, 1901, that Odiya, Oriya, or Uriya is one of the vaguest terms in the whole of Table XIII (caste and Tribes). The

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Odiyas are a race by themselves, split up into many castes. 'Odiya' also often means merely a man who speaks Oriya-----'

10. The Orissa Bench of the commission while considering the request for inclusion of Chasa in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa (NCBC Advice No. 11-Orissa/96 dated 21-06-96) have recorded the following fact regarding Oda, Orha, Odra :-

"In some parts of Orissa, especially in the areas contiguous with Andhra Pradesh, Chasas use the prefix, Oda, Orha or Odra meaning 'the first' or 'Original' inhabitants of Orissa. The term Odia is possibly derived from Oda. According to Risley Chasa are of non-Aryan descent. The Oriya writer Pyari Mohan says "Their forefathers were known as "Odha", who had migrated from the Bastar and Jayapur regions to different districts of Orissa, where they were granted land 'Jagir' by the Rajas of Orissa for the service they rendered to the States as Padatika (food soldiers). Later on they settled down and began to cultivate the soil."

11. According to H. H. Risley ('The Tribes and castes of Bengal, Ethnographic Glossary', Firma Mukhopadhyay, Calcutta, Reprint 1981, First Published in 1891 p. 153 & p. 178) Padhan or Pradhan is a title used by the members of a number of castes. In his words, "Padhan, (i) a title of kotals and Binijhias, of Khandaits in Chota Nagpur, Patnis, Chamars and Santals, (ii) a village headman in Singhbhum, (iii) a section of Sunaris in Behar (iv) a hypergamous division of Tiyaars."

IV. Findings

12. From the foregoing, the Bench agrees with the Justice N. K. Das Commission who had rightly held 'Pradhan' as a surname used by members of many castes. It appears that the State Commission while considering the requests for inclusion of Pradhan, Padhan, Odapadhan and Odachasa in the State List of Backward Classes, did not differentiate among the terms - caste, sub-caste, synonyms and Surname/Title. The

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for Backward Classes

Commission has also not paid attention to the writings of Risley and other ethnographers. From the statements made by the State Government representatives and the people present at the time of public hearing, belonging to different castes including 'Khandayat' caste, it is clear that 'Pradhan' and 'Padhan' titles/surnames are used by the people of 'Chasa' and Khandayat castes and also by the people of some other castes/communities. The request for inclusion of Oda Pradhan, itself states that 'Pradhan' is one of the designations used by the people of this caste/community and the request for inclusion of 'Odra Pradhan' adumbrates the fact that they are known as 'Chasa'. Keeping all these in view the Findings of the Bench while considering the request of inclusion of 'Pradhan' and 'Padhan' in the Central List of Backward classes for Orissa, was that these are merely titles and not castes. The advice of the Commission rejecting the request has already been tendered to the Central Government vide NCBC Advice No. Orissa 20-27/99 dated 12-02-99. It is also clear from the above facts that Oda/Odra is a prefix used by 'Chasa' caste in bordering districts of Orissa with Andhra Pradesh and the 'Oda Pradhan'/Odra Pradhan is a term/title used by the members of Chasa caste. Thus the Bench finds that Oda Pradhan/Odra Pradhan is not a caste but title/surname used by the members of Chasa caste. Since 'Chasa' caste has already been included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa on advice of the commission at Sl. No. 177, there is no need of including titles/surnames used by the members of the caste and also by other castes. Inclusion of such titles/surnames will make room for some members of certain socially developed castes/communities to claim and even obtain Backward Classes certificates which is not intended for them. The Bench is therefore of the view that the requests for inclusion of 'Oda Pradhan' and Odra Pradhan be **rejected**.

U.P. Singh
11.6.99
(U.P. SINGH)

Akshaya Bhai
11.06.99
(SAHU AKSHAYA BHAI)

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P. S. KRISHNAN
Member, Commission
National Backward Classes

V. Advice of the Commission

12. The Commission considered and agreed in full with the above Findings of the Orissa 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 :-

The Requests for inclusion 'Oda Pradhan' and 'Odra Pradhan' in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa be **rejected** as these are not castes but titles.

On account of the unfortunate demise of one of the Members Shri Navtej Puadhi on 16.08.1998, 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
11.6.99

Kshayan
11.06.99

P. S. Krishnan
11.6.99

P. S. Krishnan
14.6.99

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P. S. Krishnan

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Member Secretary
National Commission
for Backward Classes