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सदस्य-सचिव
राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग

भारत सरकार
त्रिकूट-१, भीकाएजी कामा प्लेस, नई दिल्ली - ११००६६

Member - Secretary
National Commission for Backward Classes
Government of India
Trikoort-1, Bhikaiji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110066

NCBC Advice No. 21 UP/98

1.4.19

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 in respect of the Request for Inclusion of "Pinjara, Behna, Dhunia, Dhunkar, Kandere, Kadere, Karan" as synonyms of "Naddaf(Dhunia)" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Uttar Pradesh, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the Act.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

(P.S. KRISHNAN)

Encl: As stated

Shri D.K. Manavalan
Secretary to Govt. of India
Ministry of Welfare
Shastri Bhavan
NEW DELHI

O/C

14.9.98

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES
UTTAR PRADESH
FINDINGS

Case: Requests for Inclusion of "Pinjara, Behna, Dhunia, Dhunkar, Kandere, Kadere, Karan" as synonyms of "Naddaf (Dhunia) in the Central List of Backward Classes for Uttar Pradesh.

Per Shri Sahu Akshaya Bhai, Member

I. Request

These cases arise from the Requests received in this Commission from (i) All India Muslim Backward Classes Federation, 93, R.K. Puram, Sector-12 New Delhi (ii) Kandere Samaj Sabha (U.P.), H.O. 960, Anantapada, Mathura (U.P.) for the inclusion of Pinjara, Behna, Dhunia, Dhunkar, Kandere, Kadere, Karan castes/communities as Synonyms of Naddaf (Dhunia) Mansoori in the Central List of Backward Classes for Uttar Pradesh.

II. Public Hearing

2. The single-Member Bench of the Commission for Uttar Pradesh consisting of Hon'ble Member, Shri Sahu Akshaya Bhai held a Public Hearing at Yojna Bhawan, Lucknow on 6.10.97 to examine the Requests in respect of these cases. However none of the members of the castes/communities appeared to plead their case. Therefore, on the day of Public hearing the State Govt. was requested to make necessary arrangements for publicity through mass media i.e. T.V., Radio and Newspapers so that the representatives of the castes/communities may appear

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before the Bench on 7.10.97 to plead their case. Even after publication in the newspapers & broadcast through T.V. & Radio none appeared on behalf of the Federation or the Community. The State govt. was represented by Shri K.P. Singh, Secretary, Shri H.S. Yadav, Special Secretary and Shri Javed Ehtesham, Under Secretary, from the Backward Classes Welfare Department, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh.

III. Facts

3. The relevant entries in different lists of Backward Classes for Uttar Pradesh are as follows:-

i). State List

The U.P. State's list which was amended in Sept. 1995 contains the following entry:-

"46 Naddaf (Dhunia), Mansoori, Kandere, Kadere".

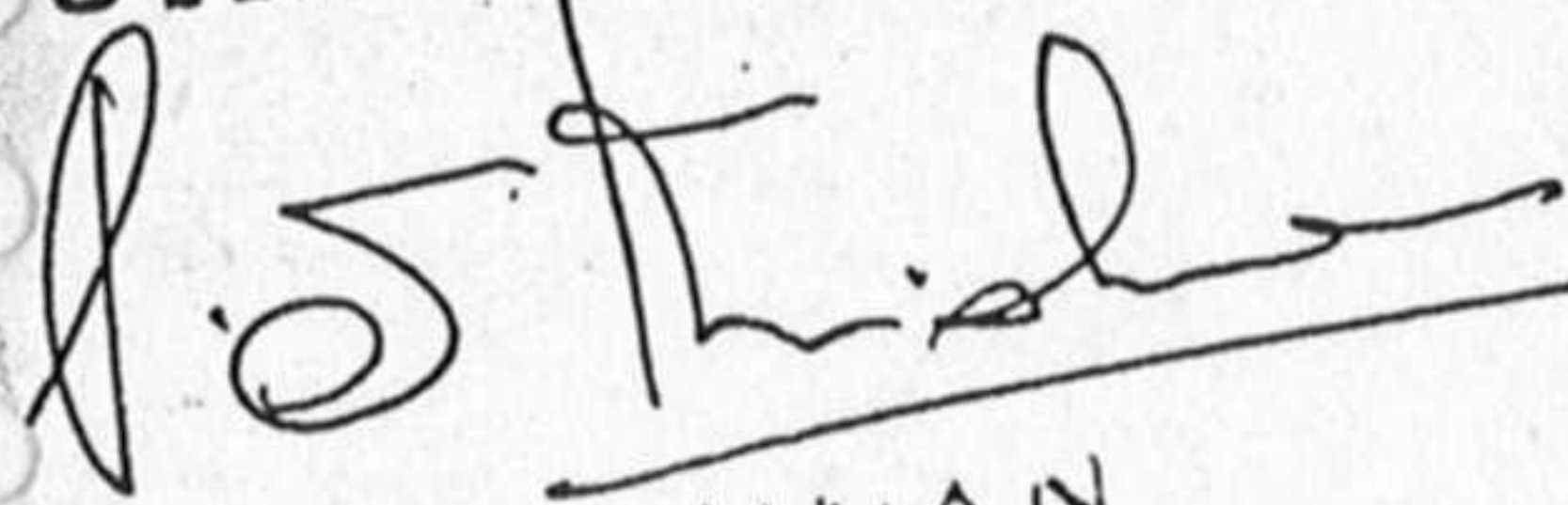
ii). Mandal List

"40 Dhunia, Kathoria, Naddaf."

iii). Central List

"45 Naddaf (Dhunia), Mansoori."

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4. As Pinjara, Dhunkar, Behna, & Karan are not included either in the Mandal List or the State List, at the time of the preparation of the first phase Central List of Backward Classes for Uttar Pradesh, therefore, these castes/communities are not included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Uttar Pradesh. Kandere, Kadere have been included only in the state list only in Sept. 1995. "Naddaf (Dhunia)" is included in the first-phase Central List of Backward Classes for Uttar Pradesh as these were included in both in the Mandal List and the State List for Uttar Pradesh at the time of the preparation of Backward Classes for Uttar Pradesh. On the Advice of the NCBC Mansoori has also been included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Uttar Pradesh.

5. The Federation has stated the main occupation of "Pinjara, Naddaf, Behna, Dhunia, Dhunkar, Mansoori" is 'Cotton Carding & Quilt ('Razai') making'.

6. Kandere Samaj Sabha (U.P.), Mathura has requested the National Commission for Backward Classes to include "Kandere, Kadere, 'Karan' along with Dhunia (Hindu) . In their Request it was stated by the Sabha that Hindu Dhunia caste is economically, socially, politically and educationally backward class. These castes are known by all these three names --- Kandere, Kadere, Karan in Uttar Pradesh . These castes have been included in the State list & Central list of Backward Classes for Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, etc. Uttar Pradesh Government has also recommended for inclusion of these castes/communities for Survey of their castes/communities in the State.

7. The existence of the "Dhuniya, Dhuna" castes in North-Western Provinces has been reported by W.Crooke in his ethnographic work "The Tribes and Castes of the North Western India" (Cosmo Publications Delhi, 1974, Reprint, Vol.II, PP.297-301 originally published under the title "The Tribes and Castes of the North Western Province & Oudh Calcutta--1896). Crooke describes about these castes as

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follows:- "Dhuniya, Dhuna (Hindi dhunna, "to card; Sans dhu," to agitate"), the Cotton Carding caste. Other names for them are Behna (Sans. Vija, "Seed"), who is properly the man who removes the cotton seed from the fibre; Katera (Katna "to spin"), Kandra (Sans. Karsha, "dragging", Kara, "doer"); if he is a Muhammadan or the speaker a pedant he is called Naddaf, which is Arabic means "Separator". There are some Hindus who carry on this occupation; but most of them are Muhammadans, and these alone find an entry in the returns of the last Census.

.....To the West of the Province the Hindu Dhuniyas claim to be of Rajput origin.....(P.297).

.....The primary business of the Dhuniya is the carding or rather scutching of cotton. This is done by subjecting it to the vibration produced by a bow string (dhanuhi, Sanskrit, dhanus). The bow is usually suspended from the roof so as to hang at a convenient height above the pile of loose cotton. The string is then twanged with a wooden catch so as to strike a small portion of the cotton, the fibre of which is scattered by the impact and thrown off in an uniform condition of soft fluff. At the same time any dirt which is entangled in the fibre falls out and the clean cotton is made up into balls, some of which are passed on to the spinner and some are used for the padding of quilts and wraps (razai, lihaf) and the warm-padded garments used in the cold weather. The Dhuniya also sometimes keeps a small shop where he sells thread and various articles, such as pewter bangles, forehead spangles, and similar things. Another trade which he often follows is the making of the little charcoal balls (tikiga) used for lighting the tobacco in the huqqa."

(pp.298-299)

8. As regard existence of Pinjara caste in Uttar Pradesh no ethnographic evidence is available in Crooke. According to People of India-Communities, Segments, Synonyms, Surnames and Titles--' General Editor K.S.Singh (Anthropological Survey of India/Oxford University Press, Delhi 1996 P.804), has listed existence of Pijnari, Nadaf and Dhunia in all provinces & States, and Pinjara in Baroda, Central Provinces and Berar, Gwalior State.

9. Similarly, Karan caste has nowhere been discussed by Crooke. People of India (Ibid, P.512) has listed karan -- People of India equivalent Kayastha, Karan, found in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. The existence of this caste in these areas is also supported by H.H.Risely in his ethnographic work "The Tribes and Castes of Bengal -- Ethnographic Glossary" (Firma Mukhopadhyay, Calcutta, India, 1981 Reprint, Vol.I, PP.424-25 1st Edition Calcutta 1891 (Bengal Secretariat Press) . He writes ---"Karan, the indigenous writer-caste of orissa----- Karans rank next to Brahmans in the scale of social precedence commonly recognised in orissa. Most of them have a sound knowledge of their own vernacular and are ready scribes, and within last few years many of them have taken to English education. Zamindars, patidars, holders of lakhiraj tenures, and occupancy and non-occupancy ryots are found among the caste and many are employed as clerks and gomashtas by the various grades of landholders."

Findings

10. On the basis of the above material the bench found that :- (i) Pinjara, Behna, Dhunia, Kandere, Kadere are Synonyms of Naddaf (Dhunia), Mansoori whose traditional occupation is "Cotton Carding" which is a traditional artisanal craft, one of the occupation referred to in para of Procedural clarification on Guidelines and Covered by

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"A-- Social Item no. 2 (e) " of the Commission's "Guidelines for Considerations of Requests for Inclusion and complaints of Under-inclusion in the Central list of Backward Classes" . The Request to include Dhunia including Hindu within bracket has been considered. The bench found that there is no need to suffix any religion Hindu, Muslim with any caste/community as the Explanatory note given in the Central List of Backward Classes for U.P. on the advice of the NCBC and notified in the Gazettee of India (No.60, 11th March" 1996 vide Ministry of Welfare's Resolution no. 12011/96/94-BCC dt. 9.3.96) clarify the position . Therefore these Synonym castes should be included in the existing entry no. "45 Naddaf (Dhunia), Mansoori" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Uttar Pradesh and the amended entry will be follows:-

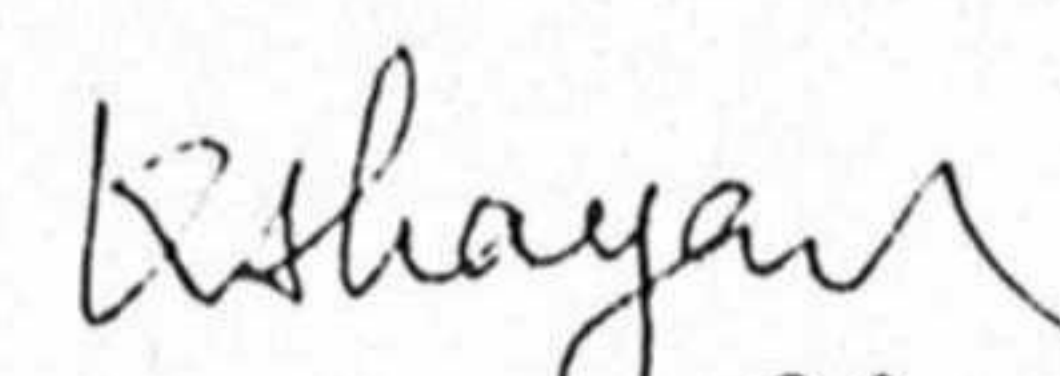
"45 Naddaf (Dhunia), Dhunia, Mansoori, Behna, Kandere, Kadere, Pinjara."

ii). The bench found that Dhunkar is not a caste, but its literary meaning is a person who is engaged in the occupation of cotton-carding. Therefore the Request for inclusion of Dhunkar be rejected.

iii). The bench also found that Karan is not found as a caste/synonym/community in Uttar Pradesh .Even otherwise ethnographic evidence given by Risley is a sufficient evidence to conclude that Karan is not socially and educationally backward. Therefore the Request for inclusion of Karan be rejected.

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26.03.98
(Sahu Akshaya Bhai)

V. Advice of the Commission

11. The Commission considered and agreed in full with the above Findings of the Uttar Pradesh 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:-

i). Pinjara, Behna, Dhunia, Kandere, Kadere be included as Synonyms of "Naddaf (Dhunia) Mansoori" in the existing Central List of Backward Classes for Uttar Pradesh at entry no. 45 as follows:-

"45 Naddaf (Dhunia), Dhunia, Mansoori
Behna, Kandere, Kadere, Pinjara."

ii). The Request for inclusion of "Dhunkar" be rejected as it is not a separate caste/synonym caste but its literary meaning is a person who is engaged in the occupation of cotton-carding.'

iii). As regard the Request for inclusion of "Karan" alongwith Dhunia, Kandere, Kadere, the bench found that the "Karan" caste do not exist in Uttar Pradesh. It is a group of Kayastha caste. It is not socially and educationally backward class. Therefore the Request for inclusion of the "Karan" caste in the Central list of Backward Classes be rejected.

P. S. Krishnan
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26.03.98

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