



एस. के. पुरकायस्थ
सदस्य सचिव
S. K. Purkayastha
Member-Secretary

राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग
सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता मंत्रालय

भारत सरकार
त्रिकूट-१, भीकाएजी कामा प्लेस, नई दिल्ली - ११० ०६६
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
Government of India
Trikoot-1, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110 066
Tel. : 26183190 Fax : 26183227

Do.No. NCBC Advice No. 37/Maharashtra/2004

06th September, 2004

Dear Smt. Prasad,

I am sending herewith the Advice of the National Commission for Backward Classes under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act, for the inclusion of "**Yellam/Yelam**" in the Central List of Backward Classes for the state of Maharashtra, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the Act.

With regards.

Yours sincerely

(S.K. PURKAYASTHA)

Smt. Sarita Prasad
Secretary
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Shastri Bhavan
New Delhi

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

MAHARASHTRA BENCH

FINDINGS

Case: Request for inclusion of 'Yellam/Yelam' caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Maharashtra

I. **Request**

This case arises from the request received in this Commission from Sh. Ajay Gojamgunde, Secretary & others of Yellam Samaj Seva Sanstha for inclusion of 'Yellam/Yelam' caste/community in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Maharashtra.

II. **Public Hearing**

2. A Bench of the Commission consisting of Hon'ble Justice Shri R.S. Singh, Chairperson and Sh. M. S. Matharoo, Smt. Neera Shastri, and Dr. B. Babu Rao Varma, Hon'ble Members, held a public hearing in respect of this request at Mumbai on 5th July, 2004. At the public hearing, the State Government of Maharashtra was represented by Director, Backward Classes Welfare, Shri N. N. Bhadikar, Dy. Secretary and other officers in the Social Justice Department. The caste/community was represented by Sh. Ajay Gojamgunde, Secretary, Yellam Samaj Seva Sanstha, Shri Prahlad Harish Chander Nagima, Prof. Vasundhara Gude and others.

AUTHENTICATED



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

III. Facts

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

Mandal List	-	Nil
State List	-	333. Yellam/Yelam

The Yellam/Yelam caste/community is not included in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Maharashtra as at the preparation of the first phase of Central List, based on the principle of commonality, the caste/community was not included in both the Mandal and State lists of Maharashtra and therefore did not satisfy the criterion of commonality. Hence the present request.

4. The caste/community Yellam/Yelam was included in the State list of Maharashtra vide 12/2002/प्र.क.214/मावक-4 dated 12 नवम्बर, 2002 on the recommendation of the Maharashtra State Backward Classes Commission.

5. In the request Shri Ajay Gojamgunde, Secretary, Yelam Samaj Sewa Sansthan stated that the community has been already included by Maharashtra Government vide G.R. No.CBC-12/2002/S.No.194/Mavak-5, dated 14.10.2002 in the OBC category, after detailed study by the State Backward Classes Commission and taking into consideration all Social and Economical criteria, the community is declared as OBC. The caste/community is getting benefit of OBC in Maharashtra Government. Their community is in minority having a population around 2 lakhs spread in some areas of Beed, Latur and Nanded districts of Maharashtra. People are mostly marginal agriculturist and agricultural labourers. Literacy among them is below National average and face perpetual poverty as they have no alternative livelihood except their small piece of land. These areas also face chronic droughts every year. They have got no benefit of OBC from Central Government. It is seen that their community could not produce a single IAS, IPS and other Central Government officers in the last 50 years.

AUTHENTICATED



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

6. At the public hearing, Shri Ajay Gojamgunde, Secretary of Yellam Samaj Seva Sanstha stated that the main occupation of the caste/community is agriculture. The members of the community are mostly marginal agriculturists or agricultural labourers. They are concentrated in the four districts of Marathwada region and their total population in the State is about 2 lakhs. Their daughters marry at the age of 16 years. 90% of the people live in *kachha* houses. Only 30% of the castes/community members are literate. They have only 5% of their members in Govt. services. There is a small percentage of their members working in administrative posts in Public Sector Undertakings, other autonomous/semi-autonomous establishments and in colleges and universities. Some are doctors, lawyers, engineers, architects, accountants, media personnel and in defence services.

7. Shri Prahlad Harish Chander Nagima stated that Yellam/Yelam caste/community is spread over throughout Marathawada region. The language spoken is Marathi. Their total population is 2 lakhs, but they have no MP, MLA or any other political representation at the State or National level. They are a socially backward caste/community. 60% of the children have primary education, 60% leave schools after 10th standard. Graduates are only 1% to 2%. They are mostly agricultural labourers. They have no Councillors or MLAs to speak for them. The villages they live in lack of civic amenities like water supply, sewage system etc. They are socially, educationally and economically backward as most of their members are marginal farmers. Females married below 17 years which speaks of their social and educational backwardness. Prof. Vasandhara Gude stated that they are mostly marginal farmers and agricultural labourers. They are not getting the benefits of reservation or other schemes of Government. At present the community members do not have any avenues for development since they are not getting any welfare and developmental assistance from Government.

8. On specific query from the Bench, the representatives of the community stated that their caste/community does not have any connection whatsoever with the Velama caste/community of Andhra Pradesh or any other caste/community of any other State.

AUTHENTICATED


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

9. The caste/community under consideration is described in Anthropological Survey of India's series on "India's Communities" (Vol. IV) as follows:-

"Yelmar/Yelama :-

They are concentrated in the region very close to Karnataka and in the districts of Sangli and Satara. The Yelama is a corrupt form of the name Velama, a cultivating caste of Andhra Pradesh (Russell and Hiralal 1916). Originally they were considered a martial race but now they are mostly engaged in cultivation in Maharashtra. They are originally warriors during the regime of Badshaha Mohmodin, who migrated to Maratha region as they were offered village head-manship known as patikivatans places, they speak Marathi.....Farming is the traditional occupation of the Yelmar/Yelama. The majority of them are involved in settled cultivation or animal husbandry. Some of them work on daily wage earners. They have scholars, doctors, engineers and government servants."

10. During the Public Hearing, those present who were from the different sections of society as well as the State Government representatives did not object to the proposed inclusion of 'Yellam/Yelam' in the Central List of Backward Classes for Maharashtra.

11. The Bench observed that the caste/community in terms of caste system is identified/linked with traditional occupation of 'Agriculture'. At present the caste/community is engaged in agriculture labour and other manual work. Many of them are landless and look after the property of the landlords. It is also evident that the State Government on the advice of State Backward Classes Commission based on study/survey, had included the caste/community 'Yellam/Yelam' in the state OBC list of Backward Classes. As such the caste/community deserves to be included in the Central List of OBCs for the state of Maharashtra.

AUTHENTICATED

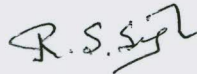


(S.K. Purkayastha)
Member-Secretary
National Commission for Backward Classes
New Delhi

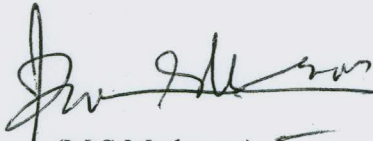
IV. Findings

12. From the evidence and documents presented at the time of public hearing and also on a perusal of ethnographic literature by eminent authors, the Bench finds that the "Yellam/Yelam" caste/community is a socially backward class in Maharashtra whose traditional occupation was agricultural farming. Therefore, the "Yellam/Yelam" caste/community be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Maharashtra as under:-

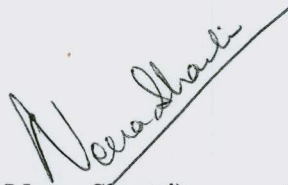
"222. Yellam/Yelam"



(Justice Ram Surat Singh)



(M.S. Matharoo)



(Neera Shastri)



(Dr. B. Babu Rao Varma)

AUTHENTICATED



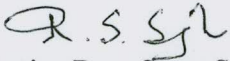
(S.K. Purkayastha)
Member-Secretary
National Commission for Backward Classes
New Delhi

V. Advice of the Commission

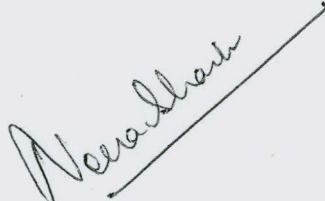
13. The Commission considered and agreed in full with the above findings of the Maharashtra Bench and decided to tender the following advice to the Central Government under section 9(1) of the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993 for necessary action by the Central Government under section 9(2) of the Act:-

“ Yellam/Yelam” caste/community be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Maharashtra as under:-

“222.Yellam/Yelam”


(Justice Ram Surat Singh)


(M.S Matharoo)


(Neera Shastri)


(Dr. B. Babu Rao Varma)

AUTHENTICATED


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