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भारत सरकार
ट्रिकूट-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 63/99

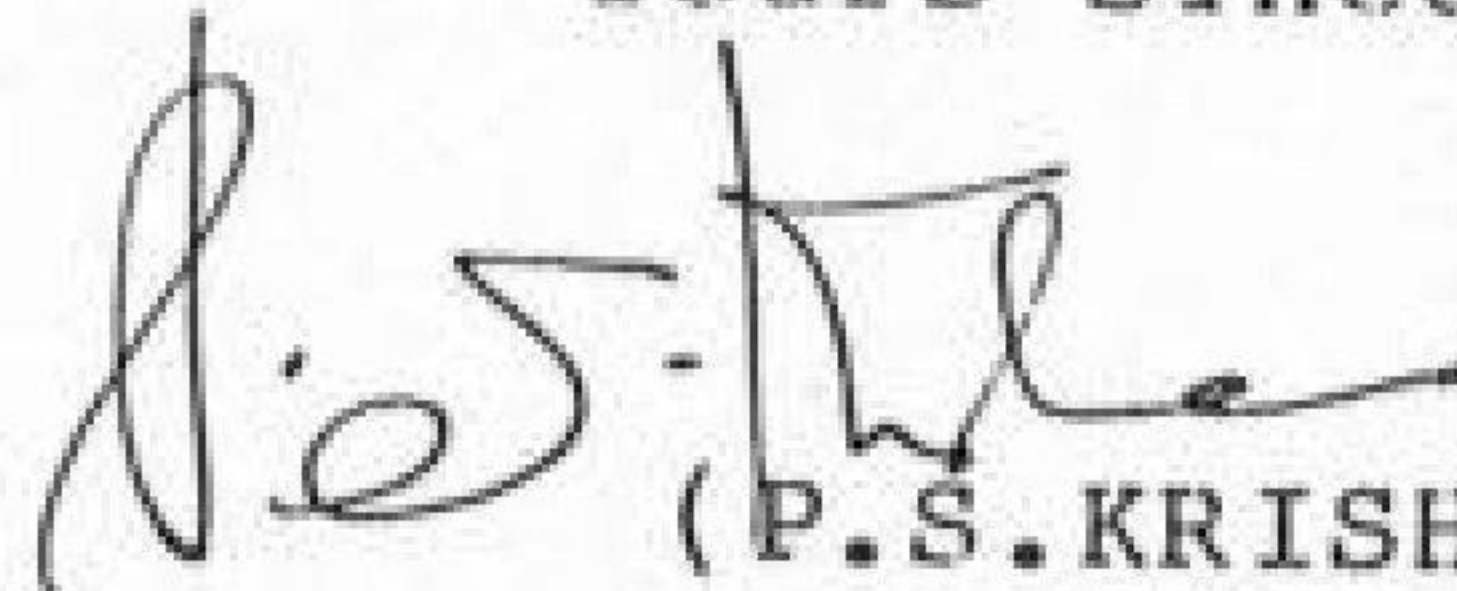
15.06.1999

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 Inclusion of "Arua" caste/community 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.

2. With this, Advices on 692 (343 for Inclusion + 349 for rejection) castes, sub-castes, synonyms etc. have been tendered to the Government by the Commission, after its reconstitution in 1997, of which 686 (337 for Inclusion + 349 for Rejection) are still pending with the Government for Notification.

Yours sincerely


(P.S. KRISHNAN)

Encl: As stated.

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

9/

55200
15/6/99

NCBC Advice No. 63 Orissa/99

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

ORISSA BENCH

FINDINGS

Case :- Request for inclusion of 'Arua' Caste/Community in the Central List of Backward Classes.

Per Shri U. P. Singh, Member

I. Request

1. This case arises from the request received in his Commission from Shri Bijaya ch. Nayak, Qrs. No. 28/3-2RA-Unit VIII, Bhubaneswar for inclusion of 'Arua' in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa.

II. Public Hearing

2. The two-Member Bench of the Commission consisting of Hon'ble Members Shri U. P. Singh and Shri Sahu Akshaya Bhai held a Public Hearing in respect of these requests on 08.01.99 at Bhubaneswar. At the Public Hearing the State Govt. was represented by Shri Gurcharan Patnaik, Joint Secretary and Shri D. C. Pradhan, Under Secretary, Department of welfare. Nobody appeared on behalf of the caste/community.

III. Facts

3. 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 Lists 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

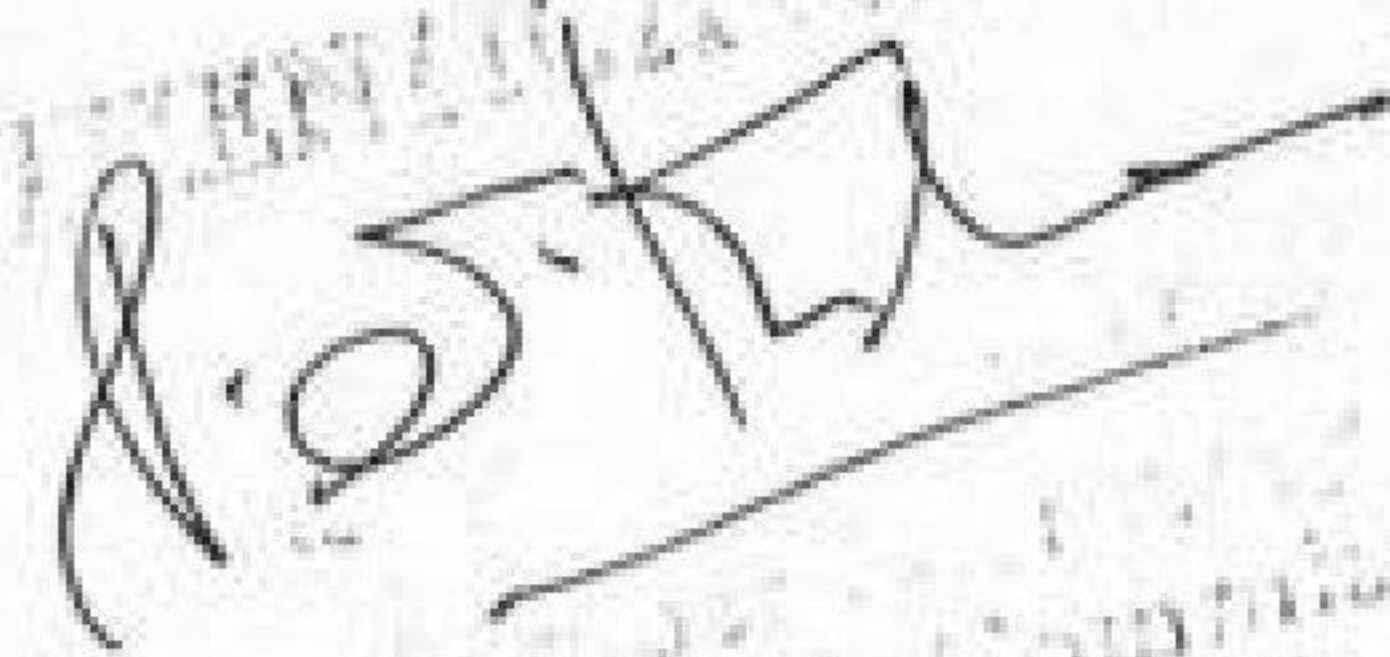
ART. 17(1) (a) (i)
1.5.12

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 for Orissa came into existence in 1994 on the basis of 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. 'Arua' caste was not included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa as it was not included in both the Mandal Commission's List for Orissa and the State Government's List of Backward Classes that existed at that time. The Government of Orissa, on advice of the State commission for Backward Classes, included Arua in the state List of Backward Classes for Orissa vide Resolution No. 26118/OBC-1/96/W dated 05.11.96 at Sl. No. 199 as below :-

"199. Arua"

4. The NCBC's Questionnaire filled in and submitted by Shri Bijaya ch. Nayak contains the following information :-

- i). 'Arua' is the main caste/community and there state is no sub-caste/sub-community.
- ii). The population of the caste/community in the state is about 51 thousand, concentrated in Ganjam, Gajapati and Bolangir districts.
- iii). The caste/community is generally regarded as socially backward.
- iv). The members of the caste/community mainly depend on cultivation and manual labour for livelihood. The occupation is agricultural and involves manual labour both rendered for wage and on own land.


Bijaya Ch. Nayak
National Commission
Backward Classes

v). Only 3% of the members of the caste/community are land holders with holdings of more than 50% of the statutory ceiling limit for agricultural lands in the State.

vi). The women of the caste/community as a general practice are engaged in agricultural labour for wage and the children are engaged in cattle rearing on wage basis.

vii). Ninety percent of the population of the caste/community are landless manual labourers.

viii). The caste/community is, in term of the caste system, identified with traditional occupation of cattle rearing and cultivation.

ix). The adult members of the caste/community actually engaged in the following occupations :-

a).	Traditional occupation (cattle rearing and cultivation)	3%
b).	Agricultural labours for wage.	80%
c).	Other manual labour for wage	15%
d).	Other occupations (Business 550 and Service 450 approx..)	2%

x). There is no member belonging to the caste/community in the State Legislative Assembly and elective bodies at the district level.

xi). The number of literates of the caste/community in the State is 12,500.

AUTHENTICATED
J. S. M.

xii). The main reasons on account of which the caste/community consider itself to be backward are :-

- a). About 95% of the members of the caste/community are below poverty line.
- b). Their representation in all walks of life is very minimal.
- c). They are looked down upon in the society for their poor literacy percentage.
- d). Prevailing stigma.

xiii) They consider 'Gopal/Jadav' caste at a level higher than the Arua caste/community and 'Chasa/Pradhan' caste at the same level.

5. E. Thurston and K. Rangachari (Castes and Tribes of Southern India, Asian Educational Services, New Delhi-Madras, 1993, First Published 1909, Vol.I, pp. 59-60) has described the caste Arua as:

"The Aruvas are an interesting caste of cultivators along the sea-coast in the Berhampur taluk of Ganjam. They say that they are descendents from the offspring of alliances between Patanis (Muhammadans) and Oriya women. Like Oriya castes, they have a number of titles, e.g., Nayako, Patro, Podhano, Ponda, Mondolo, and Mollana, some of which seem to be exogamous, and there are also numerous exogamous septs or bamsams. The headman is styled Nayako, and he is assisted by a Bhollobhaya. Both these offices are hereditary. The Aruvas say that they belong to two Vedas, viz, the males to Atharva Veda, and the females to Yajur Veda. Muhammadans are believed by them to be Atharvavedis.

A member of the caste, called Mollana, officiates on ceremonial occasions. A pure Oriya casteman will not allow his son to marry his sister's daughter, but this is

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Member, National Commission
for Backward Classes

permitted in most places by the Aruvas. The dead are always buried. In former days, stone slabs, with Arabic or Hindustani legends in Oriya characters inscribed on them, used to be set up over the grave. The Aruvas do not take part in any Muhammadan ceremonial, and do not worship in mosques. Most of them are Paramarthos, and all worship various Hindu deities and Takuranis (village gods). At their houses, the god is represented by a mass of mud of conical shape, with an areca nut on the top of it. In recent times, a number of Aruva families, owing to a dispute with the Mollana, do not employ him for their ceremonials, in which they follow the standard Oriya type. They neither interdine nor intermarry with other sections of the community, and have become an independent section thereof."

6. The Orissa State Commission considered the request for inclusion of the caste/community in State List of Backward Classes and advised the State Govt. for inclusion of the caste/community in the State List. Their Advice was based on the following Findings:

"Evidence on record clearly shows that this community is socially backward. Widow marriage and divorce are prevalent in the community. People of higher caste do not accept water from the hands of the people of this community. Most of the people of this community live in Kutcha Houses. Females of this community work with men in their own fields as well as in the fields of others. Average annual income per family is about a Rs. 5000/-. Average value of family assets ranges from Rs. 5000 to Rs. 6000/-. Most of the people are illiterate. The community is not adequately represented in the services under the State. Representation of the community in elective bodies is negligible. In the documents exhibited in this case people of this community have been described as Arua by caste.....

15/11/2015
P. S. KRISHNAN
Member Secretary
National Commission
for Backward Classes

On a consideration of the evidence on record and the impression we gained during our local inquiry, we have no doubt in our mind that this community as a whole is socially, educationally and economically backward and deserves to be included in the SEBC List."

IV. Findings

7. From the foregoing facts and evidence, the findings that emerge therefore, is that the 'Arua' is a socially and educationally backward caste/community. The Bench recommends that 'Arua' be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa as a new entry at Sl. No. 189 as follows:-

"189. Arua"

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

Akshaya Bhai
(SAHU AKSHAYA BHAI) 11.06.99

K. S. K.
K. S. KRISHNAJI
Member Secretary
National Commission
for Backward Classes

V. Advice of the Commission

8. The Commission considered and agreed in full with the findings of the Bench for Orissa 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.

'Arua' Caste/Community be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa as a new entry at Sl.No.189 as under:-

" 189. Arua"

On account of unfortunate demise of one of the Members Shri Navtej Puadhi on 16.8.98, 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

Ashwani
11.06.99

Dr. S. K. Grewal
11.6.99

AUTHENTICATED
[Signature]
Member Secretary
National Commission

S. S. K. Sharma
14.6.99