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भारत सरकार
ब्लॉक-१, भिकाजी कामा प्लेस, नई दिल्ली - ११००६६

Member - Secretary
National Commission for Backward Classes
Government of India
Trikol - 1, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110 066

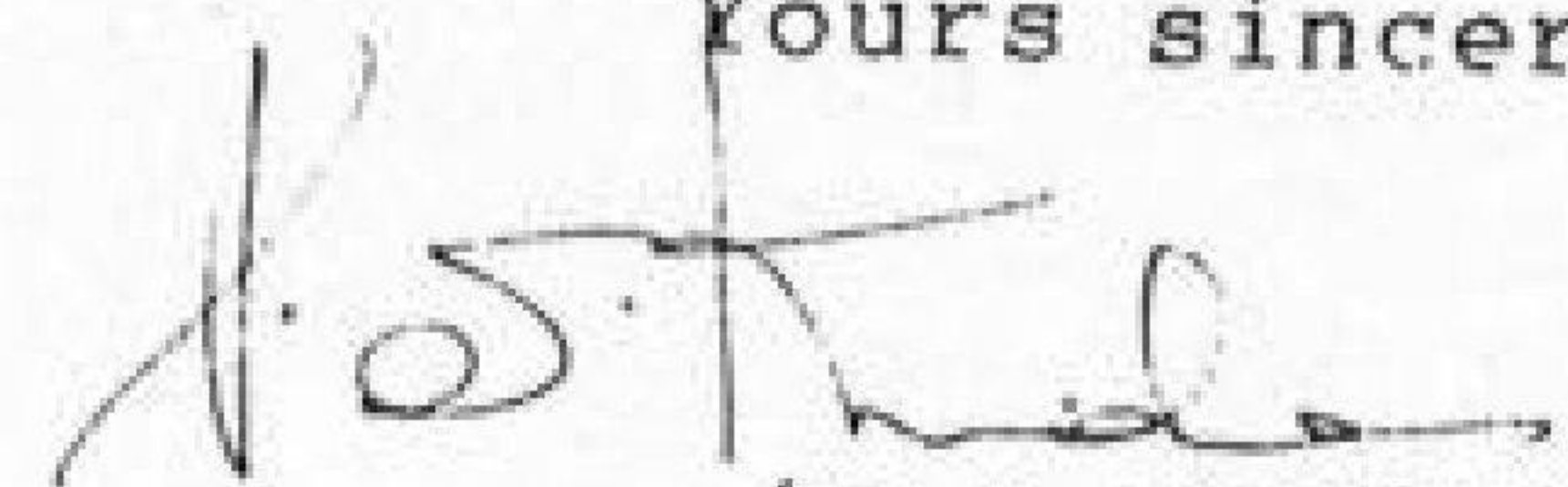
NCBC Advice No. West Bengal 56/99

20.05.1999

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 "Tamboli/Tamali" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal, duly authenticated, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the NCBC Act.

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

6/c

issued
24/5/99

NCBC Advice No. West Bengal 56/99

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

WEST BENGAL

FINDINGS

Case : Request for inclusion of "Tamboli/Tamali" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal.

Per Shri Justice P.K. Shyamsundar, Chairperson

This case arises from the Requests received in the National Commission for Backward Classes for inclusion of "Tamboli/Tamali" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal from the following:-

- (i) The Government of West Bengal, Scheduled Castes and Tribes Welfare Department, Calcutta v ide No. 344-TW/EC/M-6/82 (I) dated 2nd May, 1995.
- (ii) Shri Prohlad Chandra Sen
Tentulberia (West)
Near Nafar Chandra Girl's School
P.O. Garia, Calcutta.
- (iii) Tamboli Mahasammelan
C/O Bharat Bastralaya
162, B.B. Ganguli Street
Calcutta.
- (iv) The Secretary
Purulia District Tambuli Samaj
P.O. & Distt. Purulia
West Bengal.
- (v) Ms Sandhya Sen
C/o Mr. Shiba Prosad Rakshit
Kamdahari (Narkel Bagan)
Calcutta.

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The information in the NCBC's Questionnaire have been furnished by the State Govt. as well as by Shri P.C. Sen.

II. Public Hearing

2. Apart from Public Hearing prior to the re-constitution of the NCBC, after its re-constitution a Public Hearing was held on 5.5.1999 at Calcutta by the Full-Member Bench of the Commission consisting of Hon'ble Chairperson, Justice P.K. Shyamsundar, Hon'ble Member-Secretary, Shri P.S. Krishnan and Hon'ble Members, S/Shri U.P. Singh and Sahu Akshaya Bhai to examine the Request for inclusion of "Tamboli/Tamali" in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal. At the Public Hearing the State Govt. was represented by Dr. M.K. Chaudhari, Director and Dr.(Mrs.) R. Gupta, Cultural Research Officer from Cultural Research Institute, Calcutta. The caste/community was represented by the following:-

- i) Shri Prohlad Chandra Sen
- ii) Shri Sushanta Kumar Dey
- iii) Shri Chitta Ranjan Dutta
- iv) Shri B.K. Sinha
- v) Shri Ram Sankar Sen

III. Facts

3. The State Government of West Bengal had no list of Backward Classes till after the Supreme Court Judgement in the Mandal Case delivered on 16th November, 1992. For this reason, the Expert Committee on Backward Classes could not, on the basis of the "Principle of Commonality", recommend a Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal as it could do for 14 other States, and therefore the Central Government also could not issue a Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal in 1993. The Government of West Bengal issued its first list of Backward Classes by its Notification No. 346-TW/EC/M-6/82 (I) dated 13th July, 1994 in the Calcutta Gazette of the same date which consisted of 14 entries. The Government of India, Ministry of Welfare by its

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Notification No. 163 dated 19.10.94, published in the Gazette of India of 20.10.1994 issued a common list of OBCs for West Bengal which consisted of the same 14 castes/communities.

4. The Government of West Bengal issued its second instalment of Backward Classes list consisting of 12 castes/communities by its Notification No. 705-TW/EC.M-6/82 (I) dated 13th December, 1994 in the Calcutta Gazette of the same date, including "Tamboli/Tamali" at entry No. 7 as follows:-

"7. Tamboli/Tamali"

5. The corresponding entry in the Mandal Commission's List of Backward Classes for West Bengal is as follows:-

"168. Tamboli, Tamali, Tamuli"

6. The State Government and the community representatives have furnished information in the NCBC's Questionnaire which gives the following data about the caste/community:-

(i) The Request is for inclusion of "Tamboli" caste which is also known as "Tamali" caste. This caste/community is spread all over the State and is generally regarded as socially backward.

(ii) The occupation on which the members of this caste/community mainly depend for livelihood is "selling of betel leaf and trading, rickshaw pulling, cattle attendant, domestic servant, hawkery, tea & betel shop of small scale" which involve manual labour. They are also engaged in other occupations like "cultivation" and "agricultural labour".

(iii) According to the information submitted by the representatives of the caste/community in the NCBC's Questionnaire, both women and children are engaged in non-agricultural manual labour for wage such as "maid servant, helper to mason, cleaning of utensils, sweeping, making of cow-dung cakes, etc.". The NCBC's Questionnaire

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submitted by the State Govt. counters this and states that both women and children are not engaged in any type of occupation, which is contrary to what has been stated by the representatives of the castes.

(iii) The majority of population are landless manual labourers. This caste/community considered its traditional occupation, in terms of caste system identified/linked with hereditary occupation, i.e., "sale of betel leaves".

(v) The representatives of the community gave 5% literacy rate of the caste/community in the State while the State Govt. stated 32.5% literacy rate (i.e. based on Sample Survey) of this caste/community which is below the total literacy rate of the State, 57.70% as per Census of India, 1991. There appears to be some error on the part of the Request-maker because data were given on the basis of some estimates. As per Sample Survey, 1994, State Govt. stated that 11,511 females of this caste/community are literate while the Request-maker stated it negligible. The representatives of the community have stated that about 2% and 0.025% of this caste/community are matriculates and graduates respectively.

(vi) Majority of the population is stated to live in Kachha houses.

(vii) This caste/community consider themselves socially, educationally, economically, culturally and politically backward. They consider that "Karmakar" and "Swarankar" are two castes/communities which are more or less at the same level of their caste/community and have been included in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal at entry No. 5 and 12 respectively. According to data furnished by the representatives of the community, this caste/community has been included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

7. The representatives who appeared before the Bench at the Public Hearing submitted that the caste/community is mainly concentrated in Bankura, Purulia and Hooghly districts. There are very few in Calcutta i.e. 5000 approximately. The

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caste/community is mainly engaged in the "sale of betel leaves" but do not grow it. Their members are also engaged as "cattle attendants, domestic servants, rickshaw pullers, etc.". They are engaged as "landless labourers" in rural areas. Ten percent members of the caste/community are said to be engaged in selling of betel leaves with small wayside pan shops and 90% are mainly manual labourers which is non-agricultural. It is also submitted by the representatives of the caste/community that there is none in the State Govt. services from the caste/community, only one or two persons are in the State Judicial services.

8. H.H. Risley in his book "The Tribes and Castes of Bengal – Ethnographic Glossary" (Firma Mukhopadhyay, Calcutta, 1981, Reprint, 1st Edition, 1891, Vol. II, P. 292-294) states that the "Tambuli, Tamuli, Tamli, is a respectable trading caste of Bengal, Behar, and Orissa, whose original occupation is supposed to have been the selling betel-leaf, Sanskrit Tambula.....They are usually classed among the Nabasakha, and in most districts of Bengal Brahmans will take water from their hands. On this point, however, there seems to be some conflict both of ancient authority and of modern usage". He further states that "the Brahmans of Bengal, while usually according to the Tambuli a place among the Navasakha, do not invariably allow them the privileges of attaching to this position; and a Tambuli gentleman,, informs me that neither Brahmans nor Rajputs will take water from their hands".

He describes the original occupation of the caste "to prepare and sell betel-leaf, which they buy from the cultivators and which they still adhere to in Behar and Upper India, often adding thereto the business of a pansari or druggist. In Bengal, however, the Tambulis have long since abandoned this special business, and taken to dealing in grain and petty shop-keeping. Some sell lime, others are employed as gomashtas in large shops, a certain number hold land, and few are Government servants, pleaders, mukhtiar, doctors, clerks in merchant's offices, and schoolmasters. No Tambuli will hold the plough himself, and those members of the caste who have taken to agriculture are zamindars, tenure-holders, and occupancy raiyats cultivating their lands by means of hired labour.

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9. It was clarified by the State Govt. vide their D.O. letter No. 158-Secy. (SC & TW)/96 dated 22nd March, 1996 that "..... diversification of occupation had taken place among the Tambulis also. From the sample survey undertaken by the Cultural Research Institute, it transpires that even now a few of them are still adhering to their traditional occupation of betel leaf selling, but due to insufficient earning many of them have shifted to other occupations like retail rice selling, puffed rice selling, vegetable vending, rickshaw pulling, domestic service, etc. Some of them are engaged in petty business like grocery, small restaurant, tea stall, betel leaf shop, etc. It was recorded that many of the landholding families have now become small and marginal farmers, share-croppers and even agricultural labourers. From the above facts, a downward trend has been noticed in the occupational pattern of the Tambolis during the last few decades. The castes like Karmakar, Kumbhakar, etc. being classed among the Nabasakh groups have also been identified and declared as Backward Class in the State of West Bengal. Hence, the question of Tambulis belonging to Nabasakh group and hence to be excluded from the list of Backward Class for the State does not arise".

10. Ethnographers M.A. Sherring (1872), Crooke (1896), Rose (1911), Ibbetson (1916), Russell & Hira Lal (1916) and Enthoven (1922) have stated the occupation of the Tamboli caste as "sale of betel nuts as well as pawns".

11. People of India, National Series, (Vol. IV, 1993, P. 2188, under print, General Editor, K.S. Singh, Anthropological Survey of India) confirms "the occupation of Tambuli caste that is selling of betel leaves (pan or tambula). Though the Tambolis are landowning community majority of them depend on business. Some also depend on services..... They are quite advanced in education, health and medicare although a few depend on traditional medicare for some disease".

12. Based on Census Years 1881, 1891, 1931 and 1901 & 1911, the existence of the Tamboli (Tambuli) caste is reported "in different States of India which include the following districts of West Bengal: Burdwan, Calcutta, Hooghli, Howrah, Midnapur, 24-

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Parganas". (People of India – Communities, Segments, Synonyms, Surnames and Titles – National Series, General Editor, K.S. Singh, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 1996, Vol. VII, P. 937)

13. The "Tamboli"/"Tamali" caste/community has been included as a backward caste/community in the list of Backward Classes for a number of States/Union Territory in the first report of Backward Classes Commission by Kaka Kalelkar (1955) and in the second report of Backward Classes Commission by B.P. Mandal (1979). The traditional occupation of the caste/community was stated mainly "selling betel leaves" in the Kaka Kalelkar Report.

14. The "Tamboli/Tamali/Tamoli/Tamballa/Tammali" caste/community has been included in the Central List of Backward Classes for fifteen States and two Union Territories which are as follows:-

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	Entry No.	Name of the Caste
I.	<u>States</u>		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	89	Tammali
2.	Assam	4	Barjubi
3.	Bihar	52	Tamoli, Tamboli
4.	Delhi	9	Barai, Bari, Tamboli
5.	Haryana	6	Barai, Tamboli
6.	Karnataka	85	Gurav, Gurov, Tambli, Tamballa, Gurava, Guroa
7.	Kerala	55	Senai Thalavar (Elavanar)
8.	Madhya Pradesh	5	Barai,

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			Waarai, Wari (Chaurasia) Tamoli, Tamboli, Kumavatt, Kumavat
9.	Maharashtra	169	Tamboli
10.	Orissa	9	Bariji or Barui
11.	Punjab	26	Barai
12.	Rajasthan	50	Tamoli (Tamboli)
13.	Tamil Nadu	135	Senaithalaviar, Senaitudiyar and Illaiya Pair
14.	Tripura	3	Barui
15.	Uttar Pradesh	22	Tamoli
II.	<u>Union Territories</u>		
1.	Chandigarh	4	Barai, Tamboli/Tomboli
2.	Pondicherry	212	Senai Thalaivar (Senaikudiyar)
			Senai Thadvivar (Elavabaniyas)

15. During the Public Hearing the State Government representatives as well as those present from different sections of society did not object for their inclusion in the Central List of BCs for West Bengal rather supported it.

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IV. Findings

16. From the conspectus of facts and evidence adverted hereinbefore, the Finding emerges therefore is that the "Tamboli/Tamali" is a socially backward class. The occupation on which the members of this caste/community depend for livelihood is selling betel leaves or trading in the sale of betel leaves. Besides, they also appear to be involved in other occupation like petty shopkeeping, selling lime, working as gomashtas in large shops, etc. The occupation of selling betel leaves can not be equated with "trade and commerce" because the first involves manual labour and preparation of products while the latter involves simple marketing. Therefore, the Request for inclusion of "Tamboli" into the socially backward classes merits acceptance and we declare that the caste as such to be socially backward and direct its inclusion in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal at entry No. 48 as follows:-

"48. Tamboli/Tamali"

P.K. Shyamsundar
19/5/99
(Justice P.K. Shyamsundar)

P.S. Krishnan
19-5-99
(P.S. Krishnan)

U.P. Singh
20-5-99
(U.P. Singh)

Ashaya Bhai
20-05-99
(Sahu Akshaya Bhai)

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IV. Advice of the Commission

17. The Commission considered and agreed in full with the above Findings of the Full 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:-

"Tamboli/Tamali" caste/community be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal at entry No. 48 as follows:-

"48. Tamboli/Tamali"

On account of the unfortunate demise of one of the Members, Shri Navtej Puadhi on 16.8.1998, 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.

P. S. Krishnan
19.5.99

K. S. S. S. S.
20.05.99

P. S. Krishnan
19.5.99

K. S. S. S. S.
20.5.99

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