

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

Hon'ble Shri Justice M.N.Rao, Chairperson

Hon'ble Shri S.K.Kharventhan, Member

Hon'ble Shri Deepak Katole, Member

Hon'ble Dr. Shakeel uz-Zaman Ansari, Member

Case: Request for Inclusion of 'AGARAM VELLAN CHETTIAR' Caste/community in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the State of Tamil Nadu.

I. Request:

1. The State Government has requested for the inclusion of **Agaram Vellan Chettiar** caste/community in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Tamil Nadu. This caste/community is already included at Serial No. 2 of the State List of Backward Classes. The NCBC had earlier rejected the request of this caste/community for inclusion in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Tamil Nadu and the Advice of NCBC was accepted by the Government of India.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

2. The Commission consisting of Justice Shri M. N. Rao, Hon'ble Chairperson, Shri S. K. Kharventhan, Hon'ble Member, Shri Deepak Katole, Hon'ble Member and Dr. Shakeel uz-Zaman Ansari, Hon'ble Member, held a Public Hearing on 05th & 06th September, 2011 in respect

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of the request of the State Government for inclusion of **Agaram Vellan Chettiar** caste/community in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Tamil Nadu. At the Public Hearing, the State Government was represented by Shri G. Santhanam, Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu, Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare Department and Shri J. Chandrakumar, Director, Backward Classes Welfare.

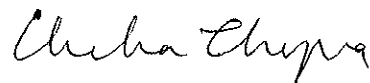
III Findings

3. In the Ethnographic Account concerning the community (page 669 of the People of India- All Communities) this community is described in so far as it is relevant for our consideration, as follows- "Considered as one of the twenty – one groups of the Velan Chetti, the Agaram Velan Chettiar align themselves with the Ayira Vaisyar cluster. They are believed to have migrated from central Tamil Nadu during the time of Kulothunga Chola to the Agaram village in Salem district, and hence, are called by this name. Their community name is derived from the word vellanmai, meaning agricultural yield. Since this group formerly dealt with agricultural yield, they are referred to as Vellan Chettiar." There cannot be any doubt as to the authenticity of the description of the community in the above compilation.

4. In the Central List of OBCs for the state of Tamil Nadu at entry no. 162 the entry reads as 'Vellan Chettiar'. The important question for our consideration is whether 'Vellan Chettiar' and 'Agaram Vellan Chettiar' are one and the same? If they are one and the same, certainly Agaram Vellan Chettiar must also be included as a synonym of 'Vellan Chettiar'. The ethnographic account clearly indicates that the community 'Vellan Chettiar' during the time of Kulothunga Chola had migrated to 'Agaram' village in Salem district and is therefore called by the name 'Agaram Vellan Chettiar'.

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Very importantly when the NCBC had taken up this case as Advice No. 90-93/TN/98, this aspect was not noticed. Evidently no one has invited the attention of the NCBC to this primordial fact.

5. Whether the inclusion of this community in the State List of Backward Classes was done correctly cannot be the subject matter for consideration by us. The Central List of OBCs in the first instance was prepared following the principle of commonality, i.e. if a caste/community's name was found both in the State List as well as the Mandal List, it should be included in the Central List of OBCs. Whether this inclusion is correct or not is not our concern. The fact is that 'Vellan Chettiar' finds mention at Entry No. 162 of the Central List of OBCs for the State of Tamil Nadu due to the principle of commonality. The absence of 'Agaram Vellan Chettiar' in the Mandal Commission Report is not at all relevant for our consideration, since we find 'Agaram Vellan Chettiar' is a synonym of 'Vellan Chettiar'.

6. Since the earlier Advice of NCBC was based upon a factually wrong assumption by not noticing a very relevant fact, we are of the view that the Advice of NCBC to the extent of this community merits no acceptance. Accordingly we recommend that 'Agaram Vellan Chettiar' should be included at Entry No. 162 of the Central List of OBCs for the State of Tamil Nadu along with 'Vellan Chettiar'.

AUTHORIZED

Chiranjyoti

National Commission for Backward Classes
New Delhi

IV. ADVICE OF THE COMMISSION

7. The Commission in view of the above findings has decided to tender the following Advice to the Central Government under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act 1993 for necessary action under Section 9(2) of the NCBC Act:-

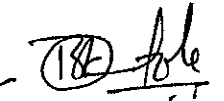
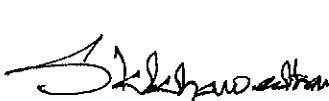
"The caste "**AGARAM VELLAN CHETTIAR**" be included alongwith Vellan Chettiar and at entry no. 162 in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the State of Tamil Nadu as follows:

"162. Vellan Chettiar, **AGARAM VELLAN CHETTIAR** "



(Justice M. N. Rao)

Chairperson



(S. K. Kharventhan)

(Deepak Katole)

Member

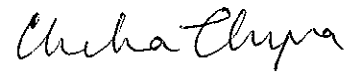
Member



(Dr. Shakeel uz-Zaman Ansari)

Member

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National Commission for Backward Classes
New Delhi