

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 'LINGAYAT' Caste/community in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the State of Tamil Nadu.

I. Request:

1. The Government of Tamil Nadu has requested the NCBC for inclusion of 'LINGAYAT' Caste/community in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the State of Tamil Nadu.

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 of the request of the State Government for inclusion of 'LINGAYAT' Caste/community in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Tamil Nadu. At the Public Hearing, the State Government

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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. At Sl. No. 65 in the State List of Backward Classes, the following caste is mentioned:

LINGAYAT (JANGAMA)

The NCBC in its advice dated 01-04-1998 had rejected the request for inclusion of LINGAYAT caste in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Tamil Nadu. At that time before the NCBC a request was made by the Tamil Nadu Veerasaivar Association, Madras seeking for inclusion of 10 castes including JANGAMA contending that they are all synonyms of VEERASAIVA. The State Government now has requested the NCBC to review the earlier advice and include LINGAYAT community in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Tamil Nadu.

4. At the time of public hearing some persons claiming to be representatives of the community has requested that LINGAYAT community be included as a Backward Class in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Tamil Nadu. In their representation, they have stated that the LINGAYATS are poor, their women and children are working as manual labourers and there are few persons in government services and Public Sector Undertakings. No evidence

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has been produced before us indicating the social backwardness of the LINGAYAT community. The State Government has included LINGAYAT (Jangama) in the State List at Sl. No. 65. We have pointedly asked the representatives of the community present in the public hearing held at Chennai on 05th and 06th September, 2011, whether they are Jangamas. All of them unanimously said that they are not Jangamas.

5. We may also add that in the Ethnographic Account – People of India All Communities at page 1983-1985, it is mentioned at Page 1984 –

“The Lingayat who are now generally a progressive and dynamic community are drawn from various castes and even religious groups (Such as the Hindu and Jain)..... Historically, the Lingayat were converted from various segments of the communities following the Brahmanical religion. It started as a movement against it. It is now has its own hierarchy of priests, cultivators, traders, service groups, artisans and even scheduled castes....”

Thus it is clear that the term LINGAYAT is not referable to any particular class or caste but it is a combination of many castes and classes.

6. When LINGAYAT (Jangama) is in the State List of Backward Classes and it is not the case of the representatives before us that they are Jangamas and that when the State Government has not produced before us any evidence warranting review of our earlier view, we do not find any justifiable ground to review our earlier view.

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We are surprised as to why the State Government has asked us to include LINGAYAT community in the Central List of OBCs when the community included by the State Government in its State List is not LINGAYAT but LINGAYAT (Jangama). The request of the State Government for inclusion of LINGAYAT community in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Tamil Nadu is therefore rejected.

IV. ADVICE OF THE COMMISSION

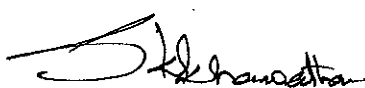
7. The Commission in view of the above findings has decided to tender the following Advice to the Central Government under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act for necessary action under Section 9(2) of the NCBC Act:-

Request for inclusion of "LINGAYAT" be **rejected** as they are not socially and educationally backward community.



(Justice M. N. Rao)

Chairperson



(S. K. Kharventhan)

Member



(Deepak Katole)

Member



(Dr. Shakeel uz-Zaman Ansari)

Member

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