



पी. एस. कृष्णन्
P. S. KRISHNAN
TEL. : 6183190

सदस्य-सचिव
राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग
भारत सरकार
त्रिकूट-१, भीकाएजी कामा प्लेस, नई दिल्ली - ११००६६

209

209

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

NCBC Advice No. Orissa 73/99

29. 10. 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, 1993 for the the rejection of the Request for Inclusion of 'Sagua', in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa, duly authenticated, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the Act.

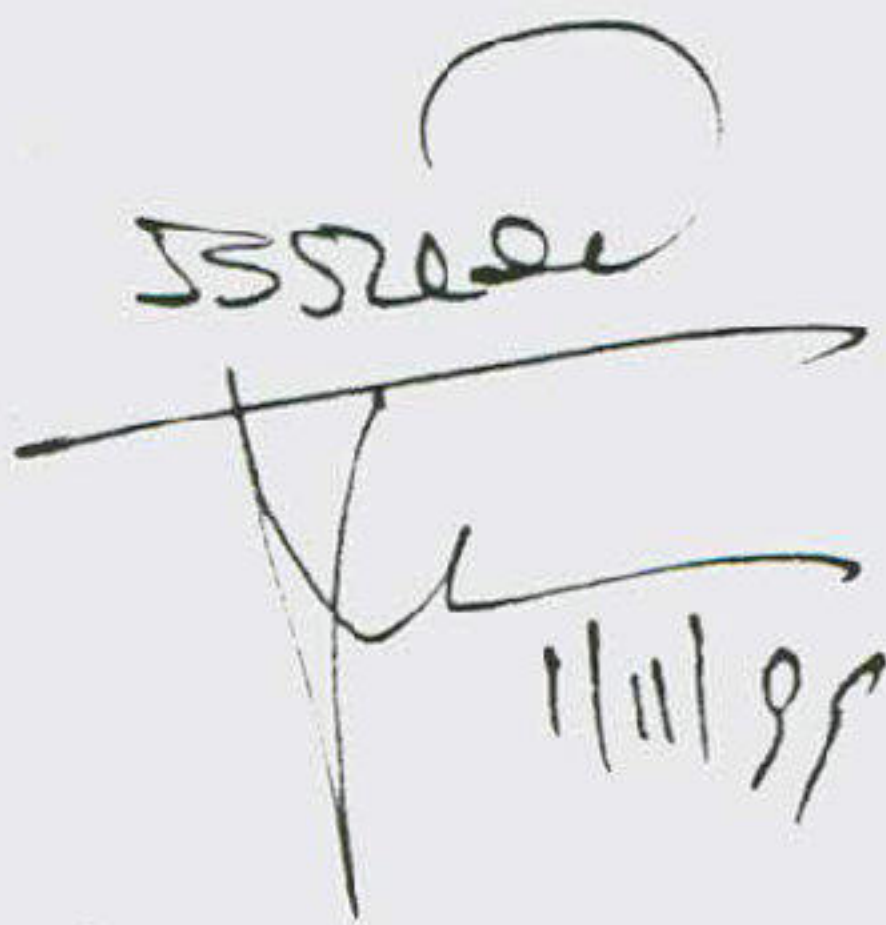
2. With this Advices in respect of a total of 765 (379 for Inclusion + 386 for rejection) castes/sub-castes/communities have been tendered by the NCBC after its reconstitution in 1997 of which 629 (243 for Inclusion and 386 for rejection) are still pending with the Govt. for Notification, taking into account the clearance of the Cabinet on 20th October of 130 cases of Inclusion.

Yours sincerely


(P.S. KRISHNAN)

Encl: As stated

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


11/11/99

O/C

765 (379+386)

NCBC Advice No. Orissa 73/99

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

ORISSA BENCH

FINDINGS

Case :- Request for inclusion of 'Sagua' 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 this Commission from Shri Kunjabihari Sahu, Village/P.O.-Landajuali, P. S. Gangapur, Distt.- Ganjam, Orissa for inclusion of 'Sagua' in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa.

II. Public Hearing

2. The two-Member Orissa 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 this request on 07.01.99 at Bhubaneswar. At the Public Hearing the State Govt. was represented by Shri Gaurcharan Patanaik, Joint Secretary and Shri D. C. Pradhan, Under Secretary, Department of Welfare. The caste/community was represented by Shri Kunjabihari Sahu.

III. Facts

3. No Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa could be prepared on the basis of the Principle of Commonality devised by the Expert Committee on backward classes as at that time Orissa had no list of BCs of its own. 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

AUTHENTICATED

[Handwritten signature]
Member
National Commission
for Backward Classes

issued a "Common (Central) list" of Backward Classes for Orissa. 'Sagua' caste was not included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa of the year 1994 as it was found in the Common List for Orissa of the year 1993. Even now 'Sagua' caste does not find place in the State List of Backward Classes for Orissa.

4. Along with his request for inclusion of 'Sagua' caste in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa, Shri Kunjabihari Sahu has not submitted a duly filled up NCBC's Questionnaire. Instead, he has sent a copy of his letter addressed to Orissa State Commission for Backward Classes, in which he has stated that the members of the caste are spread over mainly in the districts of Ganjam, Nayagarh, Sambalpur, Kalahandi and Phulbani. In the year 1993 the population of the caste was 3008. The occupations on which the members of the caste mainly depend for their livelihood was agriculture, agricultural labour and daily wages. It is alleged that Socially and Educationally they are backward. The literacy rate of the caste/community is 40%. While 15% are land owners, sixty-one percent of the members of the caste/community are agricultural labourers, 2% are artisans (Karigar), 2% are artisan labourers, 10% are self employed businessmen and another 10% are seasonal labourers. Two percent of the members of the caste community are said to be employed in state Govt. services in non-Gazetted and Class IV category. No member of the caste has been so far elected as M. P. or M. L. A. Only a few have been elected as members of Gram Panchayat. Per family average annual income is Rs. 5000 only. Majority of the people are living in kachha houses.

5. During the Public Hearing the representative of the caste community stated that the main occupation of the members is growing vegetables and because of this avocation they are called Sagua. They grow vegetables but don't trade in them. They consider Brahman and Karan castes at a level immediately higher than them, as Brahmans and Karans accept water and not food from them. They consider Chasa caste on par with them. Further, he stated that in Nayagarh district the name of the caste community in the pattas issued by the authorities to the members of this caste they are referred to as 'Chasa'. Sagua caste community have marriage relationship with 'Chasa' caste community, which is already included in the State List at entry No. 27 and in the

AUTHENTICATED


For Backward Classes
Commission

Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa at Entry No. 177. The people, other than the representative of the caste, who were present at the time of Public Hearing appeared to be unaware of the community of Sagua as a caste/sub-caste/synonym of any other caste.

IV. Findings

6. From the foregoing, the Bench finds that the representatives of the Sagua community were unable to establish the existence of a caste named Sagua. As per the statement of the request maker a small population (3008 in 1993) of Saguas is spread over a large area (Ganjam, Nayagarh, Sambalpur, Kalahandi and Phulbani districts) of Orissa. The occupation of these people is stated to be agriculture (growing vegetables). Regarding the name Sagua, they stated that as these people are engaged in growing Sag (vegetables), so they are called Sagua. Brahman and Karan castes are at a level immediately higher than Saguas as they accept water from them but not food. Saguas have marriage relations with Chasas. The representatives had requested the State Commission for Backward Classes for inclusion of 'Sagua' in the State List in 1994 but the same has not been included in the State List so far. Further, from their statement that in Nayagarh district the name of the caste, in pattas issued by the State Government to the members of this community, is written as Chasa, it is clear that Sagua is not a caste but a group of Chasas who grow vegetables or a term used for those members of Chasa caste who are engaged in growing vegetables. Non-mention of Sagua as a caste/sub-caste/synonym of any other caste in the ethnographic literature supports this fact. As the caste Chasa is already included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa and all the segments/groups of the caste including Saguas, who are engaged in growing vegetables, are coming within its ambit, the Bench feels that inclusion of such castes in the List of BCs may result in indefinite expansion of the list that may well provide ample scope for misuse by the members/ groups of certain forward castes having same/similar name/surname/title. Therefore, the Bench recommends that the request for inclusion of 'Sagua' in the Central List of Backward Classes be rejected.

(U. P. SINGH)

25.10.99

(SAHU AKSHAYA BHAI)

RECEIVED
P. S. K. N. N. N.
Member Secretary
National Commission
for Backward Classes

V. Advice of the Commission

7. 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:-

The request for inclusion of 'Sagua' in the Central List of Backward Classes be rejected, as it is not established to be a separate social class and is covered by the entry "Chasa".

Handwritten signature
25.10.99

Handwritten signature
21.10.99

Handwritten signature
27/10/99

Handwritten signature
28.10.99

Handwritten signature
29.10.99

Handwritten signature
National Commission
for Backward Classes