

NCBC Advice No. Orissa 81/2001

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

ORISSA BENCH

FINDINGS

Case : Request for inclusion of "Rangani Tanti" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa.

I. Request

This case arises from the request received in the NCBC from Shri Manas Ranjan Sahu, At/P.O. Nuhamalia, Distt. Mayurbhanj, Orissa for inclusion of Rangani Tanti in the Central list of Backward Classes for Orissa.

II. Public Hearing

2. A four-Member Bench of the Commission consisting of Justice B.L. Yadav, Hon'ble Chairman; Smt. Neera Shastri; Dr. B.M. Das and Shri M.S. Matharoo, Hon'ble Members held a public hearing on 18-4-2001 at Bhubaneswar. At the public hearing the State Government was represented by Shri M.K. Mallick, Under Secretary, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare Department. Dr. N. K. Behura, Dr. K.C. Jana and Dr. Srinivas Sahu, Hon'ble Members represented the State Commission for Backward Classes. Shri Narendra Kumar Behera, Shri Tapendranath Behera, Shri Manas Ranjan Sahu and Shri Satyaranjan Sahu appeared before the Bench on behalf of the Rangani Tanti community.

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III. Facts

3. In his request for inclusion of "Rangani Tanti" as sub-caste of Tanti Caste in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa, Shri Manas Ranjan Sahu has stated that their caste has already been included in the Central list of Backward Classes for Orissa at Sl. No. 48. Since 'Rangani' and 'Tanti' are written separately, they are not able to get OBC certificate. The caste is also known as Rangani Tantee/Ranganee Tantee/Rangini Tanti/Ranguni Tanti which are included in the State list.

The questionnaire filled in by Shri Satyaranjan Sahu contains the following information:-

- (i) The members of the caste/community are concentrated in the district of Mayurbhanj.
- (ii) The caste/community is included in the State list of OBCs at Sl. No. 50.
- (iii) The caste/community is considered socially backward.
- (iv) Some of the members of the caste/community are engaged in weaving and most of them depend on wages for livelihood. The occupation is non-agricultural and involves manual labour.
- (v) The women of the caste/community, as a general practice, for their own and family's livelihood are engaged in agricultural and non-agricultural (re-winding of thread) labour.
- (vi) Some of the children of the caste/community engaged in agricultural labour and some others on non-agricultural labour (hawking & weaving).
- (vii) The caste/community is, in terms of the caste system, identified/linked with the traditional craft of dyeing threads. Twenty-five percent of the population of the adult members of the caste/community are actually engaged in that craft.
- (viii) Of the adult members of the caste/community who are actually not engaged in that craft, 38 percent of the members of the

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- caste/community are engaged in agricultural labour for wage and 30 percent are engaged in cultivation of own land.
- (ix) Approximately 15 percent of the members of the caste are literate. Number of matriculates among the members of the caste/community in the State is 1000, which is 1: 10000 to the total population of the caste in the State.
- (x) Ninety-nine percent of the families of the caste/community in the State live in kachcha houses.

4. The relevant entries in different lists are as below:-

Mandal List : Not included

State List : "50. Hansi, Dera, Dewanga,
Tanti, Rangani.....
.....
Rangani Tanti/Rangani Tantee/
Ranganee Tantee/Rangini Tanti/
Ranguni Tanti."

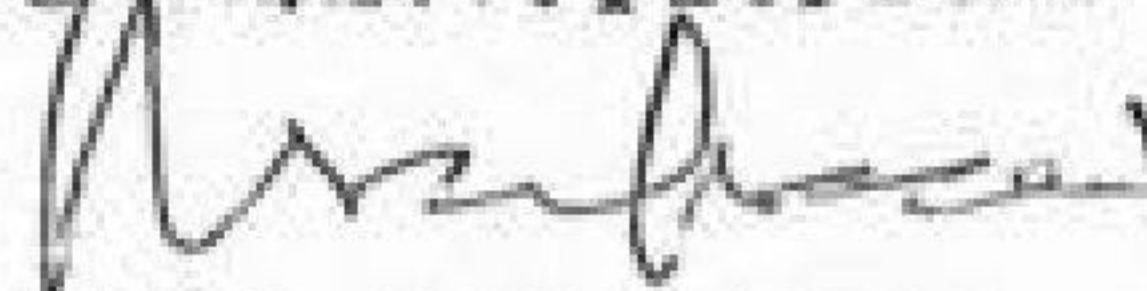
Central List : Not included

Relevant entries:-

"48. Hansi, Tanti, Sukuli, Vina, Tulabhina, Rangani,
Dera, Dewanga, Kosta, Salia, Patsalia, Buna,
Bunkar/Bunkara, Bangali Tanti/Bangiya Tanti,
Matibansa Tanti, Asina Tanti, Aswina Tanti,
Ashani Tanti, Aswinna Tanti"

5. According to 'People of India – Communities, Segments, Synonyms, Surnames and Titles' (K.S. Singh, Anthropological Survey of India, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 1996, Appendix B, pp. 1812-13) Ranganitanti is one of the groups/sub-groups of Tanti caste in Orissa.

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6. In 'People of India, National Series, India's Communities,' Vol. VI, K.S. Singh, Anthropological Survey of India, Oxford University Press, 1998, pp. 3449-3452, under the title 'Tanti' the following is written: -

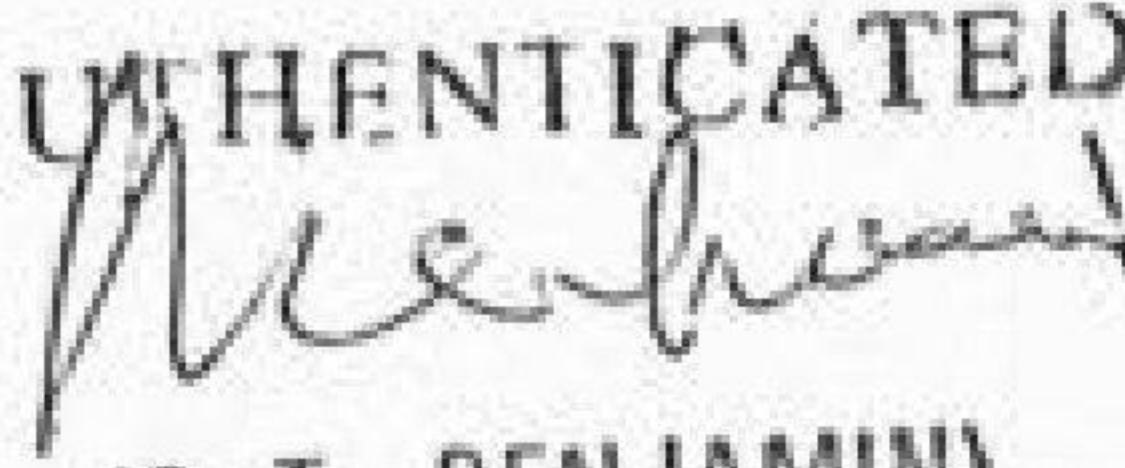
"Tanti Popularly known as Tantubaya,....."

In Orissa, the Tanti have four groups, namely Matia Tanti, Gala Tanti, Rangani Tanti and Kandi Tanti. They are distributed in the Cuttack, Dhenkanol, Puri and Baleswar districts. The Oriya language and Oriya script are used for both inter- and intragroup communication. Socially, they are divided into a number of groups and lineages.The primary occupation of the Tanti of Orissa is weaving. They are combination of landholding and landless community....."

7. At the public hearing, Shri Manas Ranjan Sahu stated that in Orissa Rangani Tanti is a sub-caste/synonym of Tanti caste. He also informed that 99% of the families of the caste live in kachcha houses. Their social status is very low. They are not allowed to eat with the members of higher castes. Though 'Rangani' and 'Tanti' find place in the Central list of Backward Classes for Orissa, some of the members of the cast are not getting OBC certificates because in their RORs (pattas), 'Rangani Tanti' is mentioned as their caste. Further he added that in the Pattas of different families the spelling of the sub-caste is written as- Rangani Tanti, Rangani Tantee, Ranganee Tantee, Rangini Tanti, Ranguni Tanti. Therefore he requested to include all these spelling variants in the Central list

IV. Findings

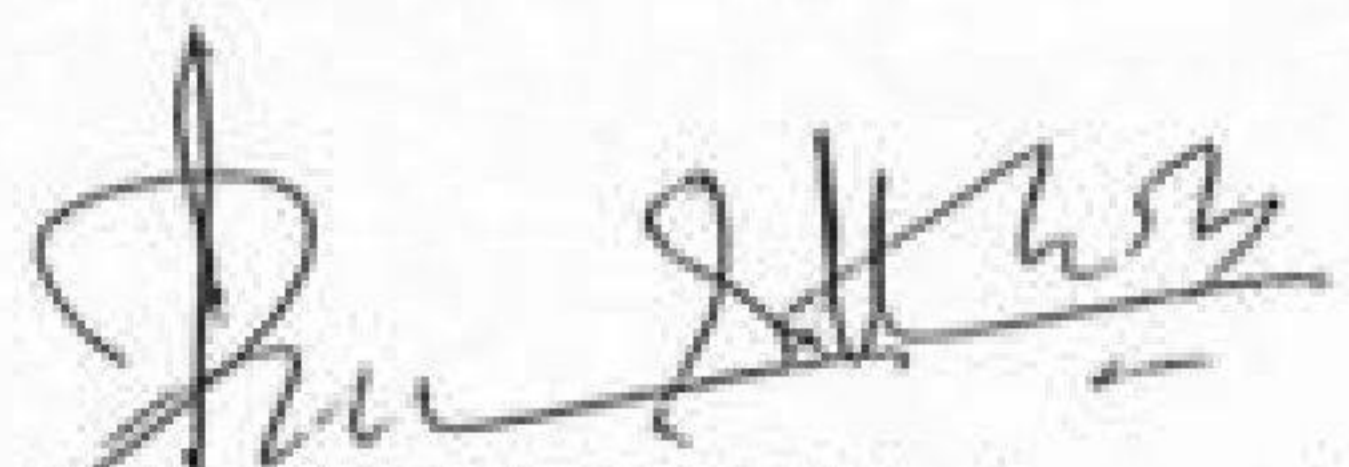
8. From the foregoing, the Bench finds that 'Rangani Tanti' is a sub-caste of 'Hansi' caste, which is already included in the Central list of Backward Classes for Orissa. Further 'Rangani' and 'Tanti' also appear separately in the Central List along with other sub-castes/synonyms/groups of the caste. The problem is that the authorities do not issue certificate to the members of the 'Rangani Tanti' sub-caste,

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as it does not appear in the Central list whereas in the State list the same appears along with its' spelling variants. Therefore, the Bench recommends that 'Rangani Tanti', along with its' spelling variants be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa as sub-caste/synonyms of 'Hansi' at Sl. No.48 so that the amended entry reads as below :-

"48. Hansi, Tanti, Sukuli, Vina, Tulabhina, Rangani, Dera, Dewanga, Kosta, Salia, Patsalia, Buna, Bunkar/Bunkara, Bangali Tanti/Bangiya Tanti, Matibansa Tanti, Asina Tanti, Aswina Tanti, Ashani Tanti, Aswinna Tanti, Rangani Tanti/ Rangani Tantee/Ranganee Tantee/Rangini Tanti/ Ranguni Tanti."


(Justice B.L. Yadav)


(M.S. Matharoo)


(Dr. B.M. Das)


(Neera Shastri)

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V. Advice of the Commission

9. 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: -

'Rangani Tanti' along with its spelling variants be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa at Sl. No. 48 so as the amended entry reads as:-

"48. Hansi, Tanti, Sukuli, Vina, Tulabhina, Rangani, Dera, Dewanga, Kosta, Salia, Patsalia, Buna, Bunkar/Bunkara, Bangali Tanti/Bangiya Tanti, Matibansa Tanti, Asina Tanti, Aswina Tanti, Ashani Tanti, Aswinna Tanti, Rangani Tanti/Rangani Tantee/Rangancee Tantee/Rangini Tanti/Ranguni Tanti."

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