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भारत सरकार

एक १, भुवनेश्वर मार्ग, नई दिल्ली - ११० ०६६

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

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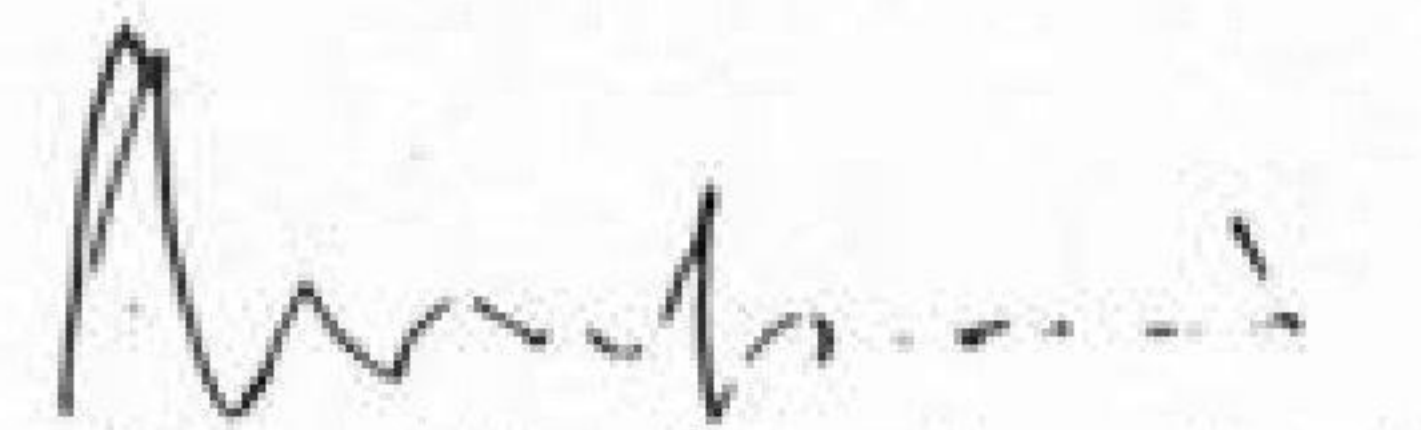
NCBC_Advice No. Orissa 84/2001

19. 9. 2001

Dear Smt. Asha Das,

I am sending herewith the advice of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act, 1993, for inclusion of 'Pandara Mali' as a sub-caste of 'Mali' 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.

Yours sincerely


(C. T. Benjamin)

Mrs. Asha Das
Secretary to Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Shastri Bhavan
NEW DELHI 110 001

Encl: As stated

NCBC Advice No. Orissa 84/2001

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

ORISSA BENCH

FINDINGS

Case : Request for inclusion of "Pandara Mali" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa.

I. Request

This case arises from the request received in the NCBC from Shri G.N. Sahu, President, Western Orissa Pandara Mali Samaj, At/P.O. Sonepur Raj, Distt. Sonepur, Orissa for inclusion of Pandara Mali 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 19-4-2001 at Bhubaneswar. At the public hearing the State Government was represented by Shri P.C. Patnaik, Director (OBC)-cum-Joint Secretary and 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 G.N. Sahu, Shri Thabira Bishi, Shri Nilakanta Sha and Shri Bidyadhar Sha appeared before the Bench on behalf of the 'Pandara Mali' community.

III. Facts

3. In his request for inclusion of Pandara Mali caste in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa, Shri G.N. Sahu has stated that the castes 'Pandara'

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and 'Mali' are included in the State List of OBCs at Sl. No. 130 & 106 and in the Central List of OBCs at entry No 126 & 103 respectively. The Pandara Mali caste people are largely spread all over the districts of Sonepur, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Boudh, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Angul and Dhenkanal and consist of many lakhs people whose main avocation is cultivation of flowers, fruits and vegetables and their sale in the local market. The Pandara Mali caste people are extremely backward socially, educationally, culturally and economically and they belong to the class of the downtrodden in the society. The request for inclusion of the caste in the State list of BCs, is pending before the State Commission for Backward Classes.

4. Pandara Mali is not included in any list, however, the relevant entries in different lists are as below:-

Mandal List

"136. Mali, Phulia, Sagbaria, Bhajemali."

"160. Padaria, Pamaria, Pandara"

State List

"130. Pandaria, Pamaria, Pandara"

"106. Mali, Phulia, Sagbaria, Bhajemali"

Central List

"126. Padaria, Pamaria, Pandara."

"103. Mali, Phulia,"

5. Edgar Thurston and K. Rangachari in 'Castes and Tribes of Southern India' (Vol.IV, Asian Educational Services, New Delhi-Madras, Reprint, 1993, pp.440-443) have described the caste Mali as below:-

"Mali. - "The Malis," Mr. H.A. Stuart (Madras Census Report) writes, "are now mostly cultivators, but their traditional occupation (from which the caste name is derived) is making garlands, and providing flowers for the service of Hindu temples. They are especially clever in growing vegetables. The Malis say that their ancestors lived originally at Kasi (Benares), whence they

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emigrated to serve under the Raja of Jeypore. They are divided into the following sub-divisions :- Bodo, Pondra, Kosalya, Pannara, Sonkuva, and Dongrudiya. The name of Pondra is said to be derived from Pondoro, a dry field.

Among the Pondra Malis, if a girl is not provided with a husband before she reaches puberty, a mock marriage is performed."

6. H.H. Risley in his book 'The Tribes and Castes of Bengal' Ethnographic Glossary Vol. II, p. 60-63 has described the Mali caste as below :-

"Mali, Malakar, a caste employed in making garlands and providing flowers for the service of Hindu temples."

7. The Tribes and Castes of the Central Provinces of India, R.V. Russell & Hira Lal, Asian Educational Services, New Delhi, Madras, 1993, Vol. I, Glossary p 397 has a mention of Pandra as below:

"Pandra. - A small caste of cultivators in the Uriya country. It is said that one of the Rajas of Patna had an illegitimate son to whom he gave the village of Pandri. His descendants were the Pandras."

8. In 'People of India, National Series, India's Communities,' Vol V, K.S. Singh, Anthropological Survey of India, Oxford University Press, 1998, p. 2151-2158, the 'Mali' caste has been described as follows :-

"The word mali is derived from the sanskrit word mala, meaning garland. According to Risley (1891), the Mali trace their descent from a garland-maker of Raja Kans at Mathura. The Mali in Orissa have synonyms like Phulia, Sagbaria, Gandha and Rathor., Their traditional occupation is horticulture and the selling of flowers.... The sacred specialists who perform rites connected with life-cycle rituals and cure diseases are from their own and from other communities. The level of literacy is restricted at best upto secondary education...."

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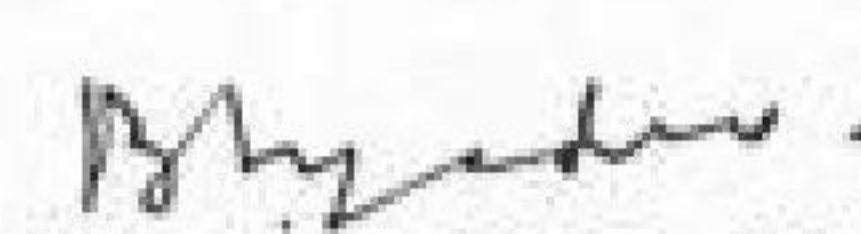
Backward Classes

9. At the public hearing, Shri G.N. Sahu stated that Pandara Malis are a sub-caste of Mali. In Oriya, Pandara means pure. The Pandara Malis consider themselves to be superior to other Malis as they believe themselves to be the original and pure Malis. Male members of the caste cultivate gardens and grow flowers. Female Members make garlands and sell the same in the temples. There are lakhs of malis throughout the state. Mostly members of the caste live below the poverty line.

IV. Findings

10. From the foregoing it appears that Pandara Mali is one of the sub-castes of Mali caste. The name 'Pandara Mali' is the combination of two caste names 'Pandara' and 'Mali' which have already been included in the Central List of Backward Classes at Sl. No. 126 and 103 respectively. Though the sub-caste does not appear in the State List but request for inclusion of the same in the State List is under consideration of the Orissa State Commission for Backward Classes. The Bench recommends for inclusion of Pandara Mali in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa as sub-caste of Mali at Sl. No 103 so that the amended entry reads as follows :-

"103. Mali, Phulia , Saghbaria, Bhajemali, Pandara Mali, Muni,
Raula(Raula in Ganjam distt. Only)

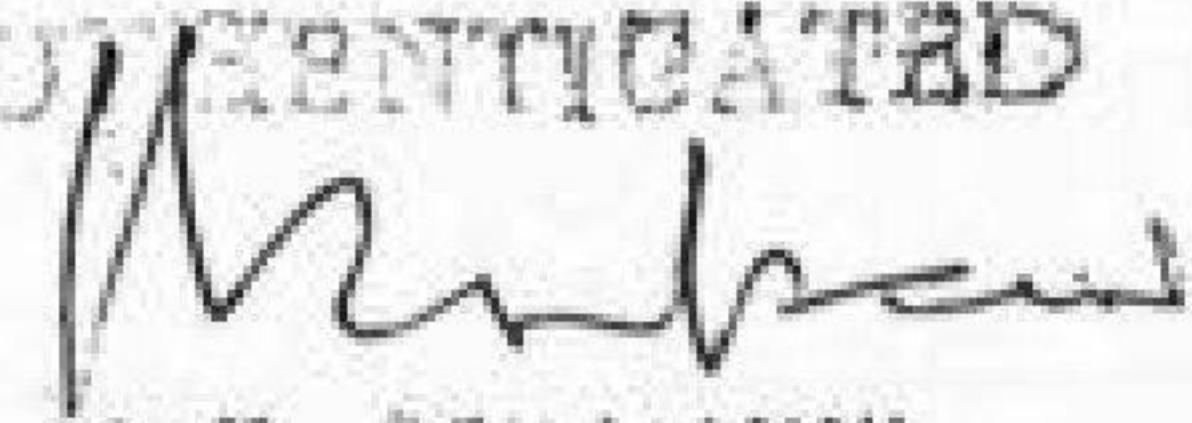

(Justice B.L. Yadav)


(M.S. Matharoo)


(Dr. B.M. Das)


(Neera Shastri)

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(C. Y. BENJAMIN)

Member Secretary

National Commission For

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V. Advice of the Commission

11. 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: -

'Pandara Mali' be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa as a sub-caste of Mali at Sl. No. 103 so as the amended entry reads as below:-

"103. Mali, Phulia, Saghbaria, Bhajemali, Pandara Mali, Muni,
Raula(Raula in Ganjam distt. Only)

Polysandra
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

APPROVED
[Signature]
IC. T. BENJAMIN
Member Secretary
National Commission for
Backward Classes