



सत्यमेव जयते

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सदस्य-सचिव
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भारत सरकार
त्रिकूट-१, भीकाएजी कामा प्लेस, नई दिल्ली - ११००६६

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

NCBC Advice No. AP 53/2000

06. 01. 2000

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 Rejection of the Request for Inclusion of "Issai Vellalar" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Andhra Pradesh, duly authenticated, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the NCBC Act.

Yours sincerely

P. S. Krishnan
(P.S. KRISHNAN)

Encl: As stated

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

53/2000
7/1/2000

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

Andhra Pradesh BenchFINDINGS

Per Shri P.S. Krishnan, Member-Secretary

Case: Request for Inclusion of "Isai Vellalar" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Andhra Pradesh

I. Request

This case arises from the Request received in this Commission from Shri K. Kunchithapatham, Retd. Sr. Clerk, No. 7/236-A, S.S.Palli Raod, Gooty. R.S. 515 402 for the Inclusion of "Isai Vellalar" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Andhra Pradesh.

II. Public Hearing

2. The two-Member Andhra Pradesh Bench of the Commission, consisting of Shri P.S.Krishnan, Hon'ble Member-Secretary, NCBC and Shri Sahu Akshay Bhai, Hon'ble Member, NCBC held a Public Hearing, inter alia, to examine this Request on the 7th December 1999 at Hyderabad. At the Public Hearing the State Government was represented by Shri P.Sundar Kumar, Commissioner for Backward Clsses Welfare and other officers. Neither Shri K. Kunchitapatham, the request-maker, nor any other member of the Isai Vellalar caste/community appeared before the Bench to give evidence inspite of wide publicity about the Public Hearing as well as separate intimation to the request-maker by the office of the NCBC. A letter dated 3.12.1999 from the request-maker has however been received in the office of the NCBC after

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Member-Secretary
NCBC

the date of Public Hearing in which he has regretted his inability to appear before the Bench during the Public Hearing on health grounds. By the same letter he has furnished a copy of the Questionnaire of the AP State Backward Classes Commission filled up by him.

III. Facts

3. "Isai Vellalar" caste/community is not included in the first-phase Central List of Backward Classes for Andhra Pradesh notified by the Government of India in 1993 on the basis of the principle of "commonality" [ie., inclusion of those castes/communities in the Central List which were commonly found included in both the Mandal Commission's list for each State and the respective State Government's List of BCs) as it was included neither in the Mandal Commission's List for Andhra Pradesh nor in the State Government list of Backward Classes. Even now the caste/community under consideration is not included in the State Government's List. According to the information available from the State Government/State Backward Classes Commission the request for Inclusion of "Isai Vellalar" in the State List of Backward Classes is pending with the State Backward Classes Commission.

4. "Isai Vellalar" is a Backward caste/community of Tamil Nadu. It has been included in the Mandal and State Lists and in the first-phase Central List of BCs for Tamil Nadu as well as Pondicherry.

5. The "Isai Vellalar" caste/community is described in the People of India National series, Volume V "India's Communities" (Anthropological Survey of India/Oxford University Press, 1998, edited by K.S.Singh) as follows:-

AUTHENTICATED

R. S. Thirumala

"ISAI VELLALAR This community of Tamil Nadu is also known as Melakkaran. Thurston (1909) refers to them as Melakkaran and finds two sections amongst them, namely Tamil Melakkaran and Telugu Melakkaran, who speak Tamil and Telugu respectively. The Tamil section later came to be known as Isai Vellalar. The word Isai means music and mellakkaran means one who plays melam, a drum. They have titles like Pillai and Mudaliar..... They speak Tamil and use the Tamil script.

..... Divorce and re-marriage are allowed and sororate is permitted.... The traditional belief of Isai Vellalar is that they were the descendents of the Devadasis or dancing girls. Eventually they became musicians in the temples and even now many of them perform as musicians in Hindu temples and for local Hindu castes. Of late, some of them have started settled cultivation. There are both landowning and landless households among them. A few are in business, trade and salaried jobs in government and private sectors. Some of them also work as non-skilled labourers.

.....

In Pondicherry, the Isai Vellalar are distributed in the city and in Karaikal. They comply with the Isai Velllar of Tamil Nadu in all respects and maintain linkages with them."

6. During the Public Hearing, the State Government representatives expressed that "Isai Velllar" caste/community are not normal residents of Andhra Pradesh. In this regard, they also furnished a copy of the Fax Message from District Collector, Nellore District which states that "There is no caste by name 'Isai Vellalar' either in Sullurpet or Tada Mandal of Nellore District which are adjacent to Tamil Nadu State".

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7. That the "Isai Vellalar" is not a caste/community normally resident in Andhra Pradesh is also revealed by the request-maker in his answer to a question "Whether your caste is called by any other name in different districts of Andhra Pradesh in particular and in other adjoining States in general, If so, please furnish their particulars" in the Questionnaire of the AP State Backward Classes Commission as his answer to this question is as follows: "In Andhra Pradesh not known. In Tamil Nadu as Issai Velllar, Pillai and Mudaliars. The name of the caste will not be changed even if they go to other States for their profession for day to day life".

8. "Isai Vellalar" caste/community is also not listed in the report of the "Socio-Educational-Economic Survey of Castes and Communities of Andhra Pradesh" carried out by T.V.Hanurav of Indian Statistical Institute for the AP State Backward Classes Commission. In this report, code numbers 801 to 835 are assigned to castes and communities not native of Andhra Pradesh but are existing in the State due to migration. "Isai Vellalar" is not listed even among these "Non Telugu" castes/communities.

IV. Findings

9. From the evidence available with the Bench it is the Finding of the Bench that "Isai Vellalar" is not a caste/community normally resident in Andhra Pradesh and therefore the Request for Inclusion of "Isai Vellalar" in the Central List of Backward Classes should be rejected.

Rohayam
03.01.2000

P. S. Krishnan

27.12.99

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Dr. S. M. Rao
5/1/2000

P. S. Krishnan
Secretary
Commission
Backward Classes

V. Advice of the Commission

10. The Commission considered and agreed in full with the above Findings of the Andhra Pradesh and decided to tender the following Advice to the Central Government under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the NCBC Act:-

Request for Inclusion of "Isai Vellalar" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Andhra Pradesh should be rejected as it is not a caste/community normally resident in Andhra Pradesh.

R. S. Krishnan
03.01.2000

P. S. Krishnan

27.12.99

P. S. Krishnan
5/1/2000

Adaswari
3.1.2000

McGregor
6.1.2000

AUTHENTICATED

P. S. KRISHNAN
Member Secretary
National Commission
for Backward Classes