

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

Hon'ble Justice V. Eswaraiah, Chairperson

Hon'ble Shri S. K. Kharventhan, Member

Hon'ble Shri A.K.Saini, Member

Hon'ble Dr. Shakeel uz-Zaman Ansari, Member

Hon'ble Shri A.K.Mangotra, Member-Secretary

Case: Request for Inclusion of caste/community 'Rajak' as synonym of 'Dhobi' caste / community in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the State of Madhya Pradesh.

I. Request

1. The NCBC received letter No. 1115 dated 29-1-2013 from the Madhya Pradesh State Backward Classes Commission requesting for inclusion of the caste/community 'Rajak' as synonym of 'Dhobi' caste / community in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the State of Madhya Pradesh. NCBC decided to hold a Public Hearing at Bhopal. A Public notice was issued in the local Newspapers on 5-9-2014 and 9-9-2014 for inclusion of this caste/community in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Madhya Pradesh. Accordingly, the NCBC held the Public Hearing at Bhopal on 10th & 11th September, 2014 to consider the

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request of the State Commission/Government for inclusion of the caste/community 'Rajak' as synonym of 'Dhobi' caste / community in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the State of Madhya Pradesh.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

2. The Commission consisting of Justice V. Eswaraiah, Hon'ble Chairperson, Shri S. K. Kharventhan, Hon'ble Member, Shri A.K.Saini, Hon'ble Member, Dr. Shakeel uz-Zaman Ansari, Hon'ble Member and Shri A.K.Mangotra, Hon'ble Member-Secretary held a Public Hearing at Bhopal on 10th and 11th September, 2014 for inclusion of caste/community 'Rajak' as synonym of 'Dhobi' caste / community in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the State of Madhya Pradesh.

3. The State Government requested for inclusion of this caste in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the State of Madhya Pradesh as the same is already included in the Madhya Pradesh State Backward Classes List.

III. FACTS

4. The caste/community 'Rajak' is included in the State List of Backward Classes vide notification No. F-8-5-25-4-84 dated 26.12.1984

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at S.No. 20 alongwith the caste/community 'Dhobi (excluding Bhopal, Raisen, Sehore Districts). In the Central List of OBCs for the State of Madhya Pradesh at Entry No.18 the caste/community 'Dhobi (excluding Bhopal, Raisen, Sehore Districts i.e. excluding the areas where they are listed as Scheduled Castes) is included. They are engaged in cleaning and washing of clothes (Dhobi).

5. The caste/community 'Rajak' is synonymous with Dhobi. In the Ethnographic Account People of India-All Communities (Page No. 830-842) it is described as under:

"The Dhobi (SC) are widely distributed in Madhya Pradesh where they are also known as Varetha or Rajak. They speak Hindi. They are distributed mainly in the Raisen and Sehore districts and their total population, according to the 1981 census, is 22,318.

Married females are more in number (65 per cent) than married males (43 per cent). Cases of widowhood have been reported only among males (7 percent), while divorcees have been reported as 4 per cent. They are non-vegetarian. The four groups among them are Kanoj (Kannojiya), Bilwar, Bargaiyan and Shrivastava. The Bilwar are considered superior in the internal hierarchy as they do not wash polluted clothes. Earlier, they practiced group endogamy, but now marriages take place between different groups. Women also take place in the traditional occupation of washing clothes. The Dhobi still pursue their traditional occupation of washing clothes. Some of them own land and are

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engaged in cultivation. Of late, a few have joined government service. The Dhobi wash clothes as a routine activity as well as specific occasions like births and deaths. They have a positive attitude towards formal education of their children. Their literacy rate, according to the 1981 census, is 20.78 per cent."

IV. FINDINGS

6. The caste/community Rajak is carrying the same profession of washing clothes and it is socially and educationally backward by the nature of their profession. Therefore the Commission is of the view that the caste/community Rajak may be included in the Central list of OBC as a synonym of 'Dhobi'.

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V. 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:-

“The caste/community ‘Rajak’ as synonym of ‘Dhobi’ caste / community be included at Entry No. 18 in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the State of Madhya Pradesh as follows:

“18. Dhobi (excluding Bhopal, Raisen, Sehore Districts i.e. excluding the areas where they are listed as Scheduled Castes), **Rajak (रजक)”**



(Justice V.Eswaraiah)

Chairperson



(S.K.Kharventhan)

Member



(A.K.Saini)

Member



(Dr.Shakeel-Uz-Zaman Ansari)

Member



(A.K.Mangotra)

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