

National Commission for Backward Classes

ORISSA BENCH

FINDINGS

Case: Request for inclusion of the caste/community **Asini Patara/Aswini & Ashwini Patara** in the Central List of Backward classes for Orissa.

I. Request

This case arises from the request received in the NCBC from Shri Gopinath Das & Others for inclusion of the caste/community Asini Patara / Aswini & Ashwini Patara in the Central List of Backward classes for Orissa.

II. Public Hearing

2. A Three-Member Bench of the Commission consisting of Hon'ble Justice R.S. Singh, Chairman, Smt. Neera Shastri and Dr. B. Baburao Verma, Hon'ble Members held a Public Hearing in respect of this request at Bhubaneswar on 23rd September, 2004. At the Public Hearing, the State Government was represented by Sh. Loknath Mishra, Director, OBC, Sh. M.K. Mallick, Under Secretary ST&SC/OBCs and other officers in the Department of ST & SC/OBCs, Govt. of Orissa. The State OBCs Commission was represented by Sh. R.K. Behera, Member Secretary, Sh. B.V. Ekka, A.O. and other officers from the OBCs Commission. Shri Gopinath Das & Others appeared before the Bench on behalf of the caste/community Asini Patara/Aswini & Ashwini Patara .

AUTHENTICATED



(S.K. Purkayastha)

Member-Secretary
National Commission for Backward Classes
New Delhi

111. Facts

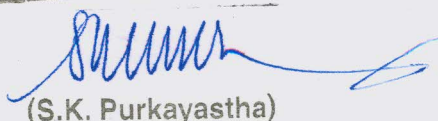
3. The entries with regard to this caste/community as reflected in different lists is as follows:-

Mandal List	:	Nil
State List(Orissa)	:	149, Ashini Patara, Asini Patara/Aswini Patara (List of Backward Classes, Annexure-I)
Central List	:	178, Patara, Goudia Patara.

4. Sh. Gopinath Das has stated in his replies in the NCBC questionnaire that the Social, Cultural, Economic and Educational status etc. of 'Asini', 'Aswini' and 'Ashwini Patara' are akin to each other. People belonging to these sub-castes have close relationship with each other. The word 'Asini Patara'/'Aswini' and 'Ashwini Patara' are synonyms although identified by different caste names, i.e. Patara, Gaudia Patara and others which has already been included in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Orissa. He has submitted in the questionnaire that the main caste is Patara and others are sub-castes. Their total population is 5298 (Reference period: 2001) and most of them including children are engaged in weaving and ancillary works (Handlooms: 91.09%) beside agriculture. The caste is mostly concentrated in Khurda and Cuttack districts of Orissa. The total literacy in the caste/community is 2280 out of which 1392 are male and 888 are female. According to 1991 census total Matriculates are 574 (398 Male and 176 Female) and Graduates are only 37 females. The literary rate is 43.04% among the said caste. Total employed persons in the caste is 98 (Group B-8, Group C-26, Group D-37 and PSUs – 27, according to 1991 Census).There are 4 teachers, 2 Doctors and 1 Lawyer. 83.0% of the caste live in Kucha Houses and 17.0% have Pucca Houses.

At the Public Hearing, Shri Gopinath Das reiterated that the 'Asini' and 'Aswini'/'Ashwini Patara' are mostly residing in Cuttack and Khurda districts of the State and that they are akin to each other, that Patara is their main caste and all these sub-castes have close relationship with each other. Their hereditary occupation is weaving

AUTHENTICATED



(S.K. Purkayastha)
Member-Secretary
National Commission for Backward Classes
New Delhi

and spinning with Handloom, i.e., they belong to weavers section and they hold low social position in the society compared to other higher castes. They are educationally backward and due to poverty they are facing many problems, even they are not able to avail the benefits of reservation due to their poverty.

5. The main caste Patara has been described in the ethnographic accounts as follows:-

- (i) K.S. Singh in his book "All Communities", N-Z, Page 2798 has described 'Patara' as a community of Orissa; "the Patara are well known for their skill in weaving cloth from the silk yarn. They have three groups, namely Aswini, Oriya and Muguri based on their occupation. The Aswini Patara are migrants from Bengal and the other two i.e. Oriya Patara and Muguri are from Orissa. At present they reside in different areas of the Puri and Cuttack districts. They speak Oriya and use the Oriya script. According to the 1931 Census, their total population is 3924..... The women help their men-folk in weaving besides the household works and thus they contribute to the family income.....A few affluent families of the Patara community own land and are primarily engaged in agriculture. The rest of the community members depend on their traditional occupation of weaving. The young educated among them are engaged in government or private services. Due to landlessness, quite a few of there are engaged as labourers in different fields.....The Patara are keen to provide education to their boys and girls."

6. During the Public Hearing, those present who were from the different sections of society as well as the State Government representatives did not object to the proposed inclusion of 'Asini Patara/Aswini & Ashwini Patara' in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa.

AUTHENTICATED



(S.K. Purkayastha)

Member-Secretary

National Commission for Backward Classes
New Delhi

IV. Findings

7. From the materials and evidences adverted hereinbefore, it emerges that the sub-castes Asini Patara/Aswini Patara & Ashini Patara is in the state list(List of Backward Classes, Annexure-I)whereas in the Central List only the main caste has been listed i.e. Patara, Gaudia Patara leaving behind other sub-castes i.e. **Asini Patara/Aswini & Ashwini Patara'** in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Orissa. . All these sub-castes have close relationship with each other. Their hereditary occupation is weaving and spinning with Handloom, i.e., they belong to weavers section and they hold low social position in the society compared to other higher castes. They are also educationally backward. Ethnographic literature also corroborates this fact. It is, therefore, covered by para 9 of the Procedural Clarification on the NCBC's "Guidelines for consideration of requests for inclusion and complaints of under-inclusion in the Central List of Backward Classes". Therefore, the caste / community Asini Patara/Aswini & Ashwini Patara' should be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa at entry No.178 as one of the sub-caste of Patara so that the amended entry reads as follows:

"178. Patara/Patra,Goudia Patara, Asini Patara/Aswini & Ashwini Patara'



(Justice Ram Surat Singh)



(Smt. Neera Shastri)



(Dr. B.R. Verma)

AUTHENTICATED



(S.K. Purkayastha)

Member-Secretary
National Commission for Backward Classes
New Delhi

V. Advice of the Commission

8. 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:-

Asini Patara/Aswini & Ashwini Patara' be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa at entry No. 178 so that the amended entry reads as :-

"178. Patara/Patra, Goudia Patara, Asini Patara/Aswini & Ashwini Patara'


(Justice Ram Surat Singh)


(M.S. Matharoo)


(Smt. Neera Shastri)


(Dr. B. R. Verma)


(S.K. Purkayastha)

AUTHENTICATED


(S.K. Purkayastha)
Member-Secretary
National Commission for Backward Classes
New Delhi