

National Commission for Backward Classes

Orissa Bench

Findings

Case: Request for inclusion of caste/community "**Goudia & Laxminarayana Goudia**" in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the State of Orissa.

I. Request

The case arises from the request received in this Commission from State Government of Orissa for inclusion caste/community "**Goudia & Laxminarayana Goudia**" in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for Orissa.

II. Public Hearing

The Bench of the Commission consisting of Hon'ble Chairman Justice S. Ratnavel Pandian, Hon'ble Member Dr. Subbha Somu and Member Secretary Shri S.K. Purkayastha held a public hearing on 17.04.2007 at Bhubaneshwar to examine the request for inclusion of caste/community "Goudia & Laxminarayana Goudia" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa.

The State Government was represented by Shri Taradatt, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, ST & SC Development Department, Shri Jyoti Prakash Das, Director & Addt. Secretary OBC, Govt; of Orissa, Shri H. Behera, Member-Secretary, Orissa Backward Classes Commission, Shri G.N.Sethi, Deputy Secretary, ST/SC Development Department and other officials.

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III. Facts

The relevant entries with respect "Goudia & Laxminarayana Goudia" in different lists are given below: -

Mandal List

Nil

State List

209. Goudia & Laxminarayana Goudia'

Central List

Not included

IV. Submissions at the Public Hearing

Sh. Rajendra Kumar Sahu, Secretary, Goudia & Laxminarayan Goudia, Orissa, representing on behalf of the Goudia & Laxminarayan caste/community informed the Commission that their traditional occupation is cultivation. Most of the people depend on agriculture, whilst others eke out a living by working as Dadan Sramika (i.e; contract labour) and Daily Labourers. Owing to poverty and lack of jobs, people go outside the State to earn their livelihood. As per data collected by their organization their population is 7200. They are mostly concentrated in Khallikote, Kodala and Purusottampur Tahasils of Ganjam district of Orissa. Their community is economically backward as most of them are below the poverty line. According to him, the community is educationally and socially backward, with most of the people living in thatched houses. They are landless and daily labourers. Literacy rate of the caste/community is 40.0 percent. The average annual income of a family is around Rs. 5000/-. There is no Executive Officer of this community in the State or Central Government. Service holders from this community constitutes 0.2 percent non-Gazetted and 0.1 percent Class fourth grade

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Govt; employees. There is no representation of this community in either local elected bodies or in higher constitutional bodies. They are not availing modern facilities such as medical facilities, good education etc. He further stated that their caste/community is included in the SEBC List of Orissa at Sl.No.209.

V. The filled in NCBC's Questionnaire submitted for Goudia & Laxminarayana Goudia' Caste, Pankala, Barangaon, Athagarh Circle, Ganjam, Orissa contains the following information: -

- Name of the caste/community is **Goudia & Laxminarayana Goudia'**
- Population of the caste/community in the State is 7,200, which is 0.03 percent of the State population, mainly concentrated in the district of Ganjam.
- The occupation of this caste/community is agriculture. 25.0 percent are landholders and 60.0 percent are agricultural labourers. Children are also engaged as agricultural labourer.
- Some Women of the caste/community are engaged in Cottage Industry and tailoring.
- Number of posts in the services of the State government held by the members of the caste/community in year 2005 is as follows:

GroupA/Class 1	Nil
GroupB/Class 11	Nil
GroupC/Class 111	14
GroupD/Class 1V	28

- No member of the Legislative assembly belongs to this caste.
- The number of caste/community people elected to local bodies is nil.
- Literacy rate of the caste/community in the State is 40.0 percent.

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- 80.0 percent of the families of the caste in the State live in Kaccha houses and the remaining 20.0 percent lives in Pucca houses.
- The caste is generally regarded as socially, educationally and economically backward.

VI. The Commission took note of the following ethnographic accounts in respect of the caste/community "**Gaudo**":-

Castes and Tribes of Southern India, by Edgar Thurston & K Rangachari, Vol. II (Page 273)

Gaudo. The Gaudos are described in the Madras Census Reports 1891 & 1901 as the great pastoral caste of the Ganjam Oriyas. Like those of all the cowherd classes, its members say that they are descended from the Yadava tribe, in which Krishna was born. The majority of the Gaudos in the northern districts are now cultivators, but there is evidence that the keeping and breeding of cattle is their traditional occupation. The most important sub-division is Sollokhondia, many of them are herdsmen and milk-sellers...fourteen sub divisions have been reported. They are Apoto, Behara, Bolodiya, Dongayato, Dumalo, Gopopuriya, Kolata, Komiriya, Kusilya, Ladia, Madhurapuriya, Mogotho, Pattilia, and Sollokhondia'. In the Census Report, 1871, it is noted that ' there are many Gowdus of high social standing, who have gotton unto themselves much wealth in cattle.

The sections among the Gaudos, which are recognized by all castes in the Ganjam district, are Sollokhondia, Bhatta, Gopopuriya, Madhurapuriya, Mogotho, Apoto and Pachilia. The Bhatta Gaudos go by the name of Gopopuriya in some place and Madhurapuriya in others, both these names being connected with the legendary history of the origin of the caste. The Apoto and Bhatta Gaudos are sometimes employed as palanquin bearers. The Mogotho Gaudos, who live on the

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hills, are regarded as an inferior section, because they do not abstain from eating fowls.

‘ The Sollokhondia Gaudos are agriculturists, rear cattle and sheep and sometimes earn a living by driving carts. They have gotras, among which the most common are Moiro (peacock), Nagasiro (cobra) and Kochimo (tortoise). All sections of the Gaudos have adopted infant marriage.

Report of the Commission of Enquiry regarding Mandal Commission
Report by Justice N.K.Das (Page 23)

Sudras were Hinduized tribal who provided various kinds of service to the higher caste and accepted the rituals and norms of brahminical order. The Teli, Kumbhar, Tanti, Badhei, Kamhar, **Gouda**, and Bhandari fell within this category. (Vide studies in economic history of Orissa from Ancient Times by B.S.Das).

VII. Findings

From the evidence and document presented at the time of the Public Hearing and also on perusal of ethnographic literature by eminent authors and other available information, it is the finding of the Bench that the main occupation of this caste/community is agriculture, besides keeping and breeding of cattle. Apart from this different sections of Gouda are engaged in miscellaneous works, such as, act as palanquin bearers, carts driving, herdsmen and milk-sellers etc.

The request maker, Sh. Rajendra Kumar Sahu, Secretary, Goudia & Laxminarayan Goudia, Orissa had admitted the fact that the people belonging to caste/community Goudia & Laxminarayan Goudia are landless and daily labourers. Most of them are working as Dadan

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Sramika (i.e; contract labour). 25.0 percent are landholders and 60.0 percent are agricultural labourers. Children are also engaged as agricultural labourer, whereas Women of the caste/community are engaged in Cottage Industry and tailoring. They also keep and breed cattles. There is no Executive Officer of this community in the State or Central Government except 0.2% non-Gazetted and 0.1% Class fourth grade Govt; employees. There is no representation of this community in either local elected bodies or in higher constitutional bodies.

All sections of the Gaudos have adopted infant marriage. They are not availing modern facilities such as medical facilities, good education etc.

Justice N.K.Das Commission in its report has also mentioned that Sudras were Hinduized tribal who provided various kinds of service to the higher caste and accepted the rituals and norms of brahminical order. The Gouda fall within this category.

In view of the above facts and position, it is the conclusion of the Bench that the Goudia & Laxminarayan Goudia, are socially backward caste/community and therefore the Bench recommend for inclusion of the caste/community "**Goudia & Laxminarayana Goudia**" in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for Orissa at Sl.No. 196.

The entries after inclusion will be as under:

196. Goudia & Laxminarayana Goudia


(Justice S. Ratnavel Pandian)
Chairperson


(S.K. Purkayastha)
Member-Secretary


(Dr. Subbha Somu)
Member

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VIII. Advice of the Commission

The Commission considered and agreed in full with the above Finding of the Orissa Bench and decided to tender the following Advice to the Central Government under Section 9(1) of the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the Act:-

"The castes/communities/sub-castes/synonyms **"Goudia & Laxminarayana Goudia"** are socially and educationally backward and should be included in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the State of Orissa at entry No.196"

The entries after inclusion will read as under:-

196. Goudia & Laxminarayana Goudia'


(Justice S. Ratnavel Pandian)
Chairperson


(S.K. Purkayastha)
Member-Secretary


(Dr. Subbha Somu)
Member

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