

NCBC Advice No. 192/Karnataka/2007

National Commission For Backward Classes

Karnataka Bench

FINDINGS

Case: Request for inclusion of 'Ladara', 'Kshatriya Lad/Sugandhi Lad' as sub-castes/synonyms of 'Ladar' in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the State of Karnataka

I. REQUEST

Request was received in the National Commission for Backward Classes from the Government of Karnataka for inclusion of 'Ladara', 'Kshatriya Lad/Sugandhi Lad' as sub-castes/synonyms of 'Ladar' in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the State of Karnataka.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

2. The Karnataka Bench of the Commission consisting of Hon'ble Justice S. Ratnavel Pandian, Chairperson, Shri S.K. Purkayastha, Hon'ble Member Secretary and Dr. Subbha Somu, Hon'ble Member held a Public Hearing at Bangalore on 26th & 27th April 2007, in respect of the above sub-castes/synonyms for inclusion in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Karnataka. At the Public Hearing, the Government of Karnataka was represented by Shri R.B. Agavane, Principal Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Dr. N. Nagambika Devi,

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Member-Secretary, Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission and other officials. The sub-castes/synonyms were represented by the representative of the caste/community.

III. FACTS

3. The sub-castes / synonyms covered by the request had not been included in the first phase Central List of Other Backward Classes for the State of Karnataka, prepared and notified in 1993 on the basis of the principle of commonality (i.e. inclusion in the Central List of OBCs, of those castes / communities which were found common to both the lists, the Mandal Commission's Lists for the State of Karnataka and the Karnataka State List of BCs).

4. In the Report of Second Backward Classes Commission, generally known as Mandal Commission Report, Para 12.10 under Chapter XII – "Identification of OBCs" reads as under:

"Whereas the Commission has tried to make the State-wise lists of OBCs as comprehensive as possible, it is quite likely that several synonyms of the castes listed as backward have been left out. Certain castes are known by a number of synonyms which vary from one region to the other and their complete coverage is almost impossible. In view of this, the Commission recommends that if a particular caste has been listed as backward then all its

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synonyms whether mentioned in the State Lists or not should also be treated as backward”.

The cases under consideration are covered under the NCBC's Guidelines for consideration of Requests for inclusion and Complaints of under-inclusion in the Central List of OBCs. Para-9 of Procedural Clarification on Guidelines reads as under:

“In case of synonyms/sub-castes/different names of the same caste or community/local variants of the same caste or community, if and after it is established that, they are, in fact, such synonyms/sub-castes/different names of the same caste/local variants, etc. and if there are no contrary views expressed and data furnished before or otherwise available to/in the notice of the bench/Commission and the bench/Commission does not find any ground to take a contrary view, such synonyms/sub-caste/different names of the same caste/local variants of the same caste, such cases may be included, and findings/advice formulated to that effect.”

5. The Central List of OBCs for Karnataka consists of 185 entries and the State list of OBCs consists of 205 entries.

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6. The State List of OBCs is based mainly on the recommendations of the past three Commissions namely:-

- a) Havanur Commission, 1975
- b) Venkata Swamy Commission, 1986
- c) Chinnappa Reddy Commission, 1990

7. The first State list of OBCs was based on the recommendations of Havanur Commission and later on additions were made to the list from time to time, based on the recommendations of Venkata Swamy Commission, Chinnappa Reddy Commission and Prof. Ravivarma Kumar Commission.

8. For the Public Hearing, Public Notice was issued in respect of the above case. 'Ladara', 'Kshatriya Lad/Sugandhi Lad', sub-castes/synonyms of 'Ladar', are included in the State List. The main castes/communities of these two sub-castes/synonyms are included in the Central List of OBCs and the State List of Backward Classes, but the sub-castes/synonyms requested for inclusion do not appear in the Central List.

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9. The relevant entries of the sub-castes/synonyms under consideration in the Mandal List, the State List and the Central list of OBCs are as under:-

(a) Ladara, Kshatriya Lad/Sugandhi Lad

Mandal List	185	Ladar, Lad, Ladaru, Yelegar
State List (Cat-I)	34	Ladaru/ <u>Ladara</u> /Ladar, Lad/ <u>Kshatriya</u> <u>Lad/Sugandhi Lad</u> , Yelegal
Central List	114	Ladar, Lad, Ladaru, Yelagar

10. The following are the gist of the submissions made by the representatives, who appeared before the Bench:

(1) Synonyms of Ladaru/Ladara/Ladar : Ladara, Kshatriya Lad/Sugandhi Lad

Shri B.V. Vishwanath who represented the community submitted before the Bench that the Lad community, which is scattered all over the country, originally migrated from "Laat Desh" in Gujarat several centuries ago. The dialect spoken by Lads is Chaurasi (which means 84), which is a mixture of Gujarat, Marathi and Rajasthani. Laad community in Karnataka who speak Chaurasi had migrated from South Gujarat many centuries ago. Their traditional occupation is petty business. They are already included in the State List of Backward Classes. About one third of their population reside in Mysore, Srirangapattnam, Ganjam, Bangalore and Sira,

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Tumkur Districts and rest in cities like Belagur, Bijapur, Gulbarga, Hubli, Dharwar and elsewhere in Karnataka. Some of the members of their community sell things on cycles and horse carts. But at present their condition is very bad and they do all sorts of labour work to earn their livelihood. Ladara is a spelling variation. Sugandhi Lad are those who make perfumed incense stick. Those Lads who were soldiers are known as Kshatriya Lad. As mentioned, different names of Lads are based on their occupation. They are also nomadic and Gypsies. They wander from one place to another selling things/articles and doing petty business on Cycles, horse carts etc. They are Socially and Educationally very backward. It was requested that the above synonyms be included in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Karnataka.

The State Government officials in the written information submitted to the Commission during the Public Hearing stated that in the book 'People of India', Karnataka, edited by Shri K.S. Singh the characteristics of Ladar caste has been depicted as "The Ladar are a class of general merchants distributed chiefly in cities. They are said to have migrated from Gujarat during the 14th century due to famine. Lad or Lat is the original name of Southern Gujarat". Writing on the Lads, Buchanan remarks, "they serve as cavalry trade in horse and own lands. They claim to be kshatriya and wear the sacred thread". They are distributed in Mysore, Tumkur, Chithradurga, Chikamagalore and Dharwad districts. In the Havanur Commission Report (The First Backward Classes

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Commission) it is said that the synonymous name for Ladar is Khatriyas. They are socially and educationally backward. They are Hindus and their mother tongue is Chwarashi, which is mixture of Hindi, Marathi and Gujarati. It has no script. The main occupation of the community is business and petty trade. The Havanur Commission had recommended to include 'Ladar' under Backward Castes for the purpose of both Articles 15(4) and 16(4) of the Constitution. Accordingly it was included under Backward Class by State Government Order dated 24th Feb., 1977. According to Second Backward Classes Commission, popularly known as Venkata Swamys Commission, Ladars are described as traders of horses. They are originally migrants from South Gujarat (Lat Desh). In SEE Survey conducted in 1984, it has been found Lad/Ladara/Ladaru are synonymous names of Ladar Community. Prof. Ravivarma Kumar in his Advice has concluded that 'Sugandhi Lad' and 'Kshatriya Lad' have been interchangeably used even though they are endogamous subdivisions of Lad Caste. The Commission has opined that the 'Sugandhi Lad' & 'Kshathriya Lad' deserved to be added as synonyms along with the existing entries in the List of Backward Classes. Based on the recommendation of this Commission, Karnataka Government have added these two sub castes, 'Kshathriya Lad' and 'Sugandhi Lad' along with 'Lad' under Category-I vide State Government Order dated 30th March, 2002.

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Ethnographic Accounts:

(a) People of India - Communities, Segments, Synonyms, Surnames and Titles, by Shri K.S. Singh

Ladar -

Synonyms: Lad, Lader, Yellegar [Karnataka]

(b) People of India, by Shri K.S. Singh

(i) **Ladar** - Also called Lad, Lader or Yellegar, they are a community of Karnataka. Traditionally, the Ladar are traders, agricultural labourers and businessmen, while some of them are employed in the government services. The Ladar traditionally accept water and cooked food from the Brahman and Lingayat and exchange the same with the Kuruba and Talwar. They avail themselves of the facilities of developmental programmes pertaining to education, health care, family planning, rural development and media and communication.

(c) Chinnappa Reddy Commission Report, 1990

The Chinnappa Reddy Commission considered the Ladara caste/community and recommended for inclusion in the State List of BCs as they were found to be Socially and Educationally Backward.

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11. The Commission while considering the case took note of the following in regard to the socio-economic and educational conditions of the sub-castes / synonyms under reference:

- a) The sub-castes /synonyms under consideration belong to the lower rungs of society. These sub-castes / synonyms along with main caste/community are already included in the State List of Backward Classes on the recommendations of different State Backward Classes Commissions.
- b) The main caste/community of the sub-castes / synonyms under consideration has already been included in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Karnataka but the sub-castes/synonyms do not appear in the Central List.
- c) These sub-castes/synonyms were included in the State List of Backward Classes before or in 1990, and seem to be time tested.
- d) The sub-castes / synonyms under reference are from the lower strata of society and represent the traditionally disadvantaged sections of the society.
- e) The annual income of most of members of these castes and communities are meagre.
- f) During the Public Hearing, members of the different castes/communities and State Government officials

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who were present, did not oppose the submissions made by the representative of the above caste/community nor to the inclusion of the sub-castes/synonyms in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Karnataka.

IV. FINDINGS

12. From the submissions made by the representative of the caste/community and the representatives of the State Government, evidence & documents presented at the time of public hearing and also on a perusal of ethnographic literature by eminent authors, reports of the State Backward Classes Commissions and other available informations, the following are the finding of the Bench:

The members of their community are a class of general merchants doing petty business. They sell things on cycles and horse carts. They are also nomadic. They wander from one place to another selling things and doing petty business on Cycles, horse carts etc. Their community is known by different spelling variations from place to place. They are Socially and Educationally Backward.

After inclusion of the above sub-castes/synonyms, the entry would be as under:

Entry No.114 Ladar, Lad/Kshatriya Lad/Sugandhi Lad, Ladaru/Ladara, Yelegar

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13. In view of the foregoing facts and evidence, the submissions made by the representatives of the caste/community and the representatives of the State Government, evidence & documents presented at the time of public hearing and also on a perusal of ethnographic literature by eminent authors, reports of State Backward Classes Commissions and other available informations, the Bench is of the considered view that 'Ladara', 'Kshatriya Lad/Sugandhi Lad', sub-castes/synonyms of 'Ladar', are socially & educationally backward and should be included in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Karnataka as mentioned in the above paragraph.


(Justice S. Ratnavel Pandian)
Chairman


(S.K. Purkayastha)
Member-Secretary


(Dr. Subbha Somu)
Member

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V. ADVICE OF THE COMMISSION

14. The Commission considered and agreed in full with the above findings and decided to tender the following advice to the Central Government under section 9(i) of the NCBC Act, for necessary action by the Central Government under section 9(2) of the Act:-

'Ladara', 'Kshatriya Lad/Sugandhi Lad' sub-castes/synonyms of 'Ladar', under reference are socially & educationally backward and be included in the Central list of OBCs for the State of Karnataka. The relevant entries after inclusion will read as under:

Entry No.114 Ladar, Lad/Kshatriya Lad/Sugandhi Lad, Ladaru/Ladara, Yelegar


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