

National Commission for Backward Classes

Orissa Bench

Findings

Case: Request for inclusion of castes/communities/sub-castes/synonyms **Tamili, Bangiya Tambuli, Tambili, Bangiya Tamboli, Bangiya Tamili, & Tambula** 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 of castes/communities/sub-castes/ Synonyms Tamili, Bangiya Tambuli, Tambili, Bangiya Tamboli, Bangiya Tamili, & Tambula in the Central List of 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 18.04.2007 at Bhubaneshwar to examine the request for inclusion of Synonyms Tamili, Bangiya Tambuli, Tambili, Bangiya Tamboli, , Bangiya Tamili, & Tambula Caste 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,

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Member-Secretary, Orissa Backward Classes Commission, Shri G.N.Sethi, Deputy Secretary, ST/SC Development Department and other officials.

III. Facts

The relevant entries in different lists pertaining to synonyms of Tambuli are indicated below: -

Mandal List

State List

205. Tamuli, Tamali, Tamili, Bangiya Tmbuli, Tambuli, Tambili, Bangiya Tamboli, Bangadeshiya Tambili, Tamila, Bangiya Tamili, Tambila and Tambula.

Central List

194. Tamuli.

IV. Submission at the Public Hearing

Shri Kishore Chandra Sen represented on behalf of the caste Tambuli, Bangiya Tamili and its synonyms before the Commission Bench and stated that even though for centuries together Tamili, Bangiya Tamili and its synonyms have been living in Orissa as minority section, they have not yet been granted any specific privileges either by the Central Govt. or the State govt. for their upliftment. Their main occupation is cultivation, daily wage and peddling of petty business of betel leaf.

That whilst other communities of Orissa could make strong representations before different concerned authorities to establish their claim and have been successful in their effort, because of the sheer

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backwardness of their community from Orissa, no appropriate demand had been put forth to get privilege like others.

As far as education is concerned, only 5-7 % of their caste/community people have received education up to Matric Standard and 1.0 percent or less have got employment opportunities in Govt. and Private Sector. Regarding economic standard of the community, it beggars description and barring a very few, others live like slum dwellers.

Their caste has been included in the State OBC list vide its resolution No.532/M & BCW/OBC-125/2000 dated December 24, 2004, but proper justice can not be granted in favour of this community unless the Central Govt. includes this community in the Central OBC list so that they can avail benefits accorded by the Central govt. from time to time.

At the end he requested to include this caste/community in the Central List of OBC so as to provide them with appropriate justice as has been enjoyed by its counterparts in the State.

Tambula

V. Shri Santosh Kumar Das, Jagatsingpur appeared before the Commission Bench and informed that Jagatsingpur was a part of undivided Cuttack District earlier. He stated that the population of his caste/community, i.e., the synonyms of "Tamuli", Tambuli" etc. is about one thousand. They reside in Cuttack and Puri District. The source of their subsistence is betel business. Betel is called 'Tambula' in Oriya and also in Sanskrit, so they are called 'Tambuli'. They being primarily from Bengal but residing in Orissa for a long time so their mother tongue is Oriya. He said that he is the fifth graduate from his community, which shows the educational backwardness of the caste/community. Vertically,

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the caste/community does not have any land. Some of them have purchased small land but have inadequate income for cultivation.

He further submitted that the Betel leaf cultivation itself is a business, but particularly in Orissa, those who belong to "Tambula" caste do not have the requisite financial stability for this and are not economically well off to carry out the cultivation work.

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

VII. As per Para 9 of NCBC Guidelines on procedural clarification, 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-castes/different names of the same caste/local variants of the same caste, such cases may be included, and findings/advice formulated to that effect.

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VIII. The Commission's Bench took note of the following ethnographic accounts in respect of the castes/communities/synonyms "Tamili, Bangiya Tambuli, Tambili, Bangiya Tamboli, Bangiya Tamili & Tambula":

H.H.Risley in his book "The Tribes & Castes of Bengal, Vol.II, (page 292-294)

Tambuli, Tamuli, Tamli. A respectable trading caste of Bengal Behar, and Orissa, whose original occupation is supposed to have been the selling of betel leaf. Tradition represents them as the descendants of a Vaisya father and a Brahman mother, but this legend clearly throws no light upon their true origin. It is possible that they may be an offshoot from one of the trading castes, whose usages have been transformed by contact with Brahmanical influences. In Bengal and Orissa the Brahmanical gotras are in use, Vyasa being included among them.

To prepare and sell betel-leaf, which they buy from the cultivators, is believed to be the original occupation of the caste, which they still adhere to in Behar and Upper India, often adding thereto the business of a pansari or druggist.

"People of India- India's Communities" (National Series Vol.V1 by K.S. Singh, (Page 3424-3425).

In Orissa, the Tambuli are concentrated in Balasore district. They speak Oriya and use the Oriya script at all levels of communication. They are a clean caste. Social division exists at the clan (gotra) level without any hierarchical differentiations.

Though the Tambuli are a landowning community, the majority of them depend on business. Some also depend on service. Most of them

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belong to the Vaishnava sect of Hinduism. They traditionally accept kaccha and pucca only from the clean Hindu castes, whereas the Brahman accept only pucca food from them. They are quite advanced in the field of education and health and medicare, although a few still depend on traditional medicines for some diseases.

Castes And Tribes of Southern India, Vol.11, by E.Thurston & K.Rangachari, (Page 9)

Tambuli or Tamuli is recorded as a caste of betel-leaf sellers in Bengal and Tamboli as a caste carrying on a similar occupation in the Bombay Presidency.

“People of India- Communities, Segments, Synonyms, Surnames and Titles”(National Series Vol.V11(Page 937)

Based on census years 1881, 1891, 1931, the existence of Tamboli (Tambuli) caste is reported in different States of India including Orissa.

The “Tamboli”/ “Tamali” caste/community has been included as a backward caste/community in the list of Backward classes for a number of States/Union Territories (including Orissa) in the report of first Backward Classes Commission by Kaka Kalelkar (1955) and the traditional occupation of the caste/community was stated mainly “selling betel leaves”.

The “Tamboli/Tamali/Tamoli/Tamballa/Tammali” castes/communities have been included in the Central List of Backward Classes for fifteen States and one Union Territory which are as follows: -

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Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Entry No.	Name of the Caste
I	<u>States</u>		
1	Andhra Pradesh	89	Tammali
2.	Assam	4	Barjubi
3.	Bihar	52	Tamoli, Tamboli
4.	Delhi	9	Barai, Bari, Tamboli
5.	Haryana	6	Barai, Tamboli
6.	Karnataka	85	Gurav, Gurov, Tambli, Tamballa, Gurava, Guroa
7.	Kerala	55	Senai Thalavar (Elavaniar)
8.	Madhya Pradesh	5	Barai, Waarai, Wari (Chaurasia) Tamoli Tamboli, Kumavatt, Kumavat
9.	Maharashtra	169	Tamboli
10.	Orissa	9	Bariji or Barui
11.	Punjab	26	Barai
12.	Rajasthan	50	Tamoli (Tamboli)
13.	Tamil Nadu	135	Senaithalaviar, Senaitudiya and I llaiya Pair
14.	Tripura	3	Barui
15.	Uttar Pradesh	22	Tamoli
	<u>Union Territories</u>		
1.	Chandigarh	4	Barai, Tamboli/Tomboli

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National Commission for Backward Classes vide its advice No.Orissa 66-67/99 has already included the castes/communities Tambuli, Tamali & Tamuli in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Orissa as it finds the said castes/communities socially and educationally backward.

IX. Findings

From the evidence and document presented at the time of the Public Hearing and also on perusal of ethnographic literatures by eminent authors and other available information, it is the finding of the Bench that the original occupation of the castes/communities/sub-castes/synonyms **Tamili, Bangiya Tambuli, Tambili, Bangiya Tamboli, Bangiya Tamili & Tambula** is to prepare and sell betel-leaf, which they buy from the cultivators. H.H.Risley has also corroborated this fact in his book "The Tribes & Castes of Bengal". Betel is also called 'Tambula' in Oriya and Sanskrit, so they are called 'Tambuli'. Some Tambuli own lands and some others depend on service, but majority of them are in business. These castes/communities/sub-castes/synonyms people are primarily from Bengal but residing in Orissa for a long time, so they speak and use Oriya. The occupation of selling betel leaves can not be equated with trade and commerce, because the first involves manual labour and preparation of products while the later involves only marketing. The literacy rate among these castes/communities people is 7.0 percent. The main caste Tamuli (Orissa OBCs Central List : Sl.No. 194) along with its other synonyms are already in the Central List of OBCs in fifteen States and one Union Territory.

Keeping in view the above fact and evidence, the Bench is of the considered view that castes/communities/sub-castes/synonyms Tamili, Bangiya Tambuli, Tambili, Bangiya Tamboli, Bangiya Tamili & Tambula

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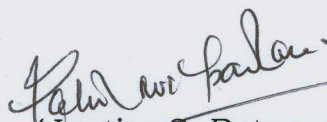
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are socially and educationally backward. Therefore the request for inclusion of Tamili, Bangiya Tambuli, Tambili, Bangiya Tamboli, Bangiya Tamili & Tambula into socially backward classes merits acceptance and the Bench recommend for inclusion of Tamili, Bangiya Tambuli, Tambili, Bangiya Tamboli, Bangiya Tamili & Tambula as synonyms of Tamuli in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa at Sl.No. 194.

The amended entry will be as under:

194. Tamuli, Tamili, Bangiya Tambuli, Tambili, Bangiya Tamboli, Bangiya Tamili, & Tambula


(Justice S. Ratnavel Pandian)
Chairperson


(S.K. Purkayastha)
Member-Secretary


(Dr. Subbha Somu)
Member

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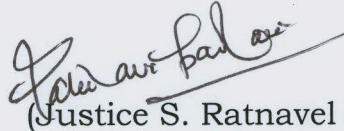
X. Advice of the Commission

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 **Tamili, Bangiya Tambuli, Tambili, Bangiya Tamboli, Bangiya Tamili & Tambula** 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.194”

The entries after inclusion will read as under: -

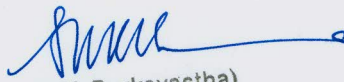
194. Tamuli, Tamili, Bangiya Tambuli, Tambili, Bangiya Tamboli, Bangiya Tamili, & Tambula


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Chairperson


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