

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

Uttar Pradesh Bench

FINDINGS

Case: Request for inclusion of '**Barai and Chaurasia as synonym of Tamoli**' caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Uttar Pradesh.

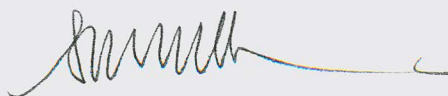
1. Request

This case arises from the request received in this Commission from Shri Anil Kumar Chaurasia, Distt.-Balai, U.P., Shri Srikrishna Prasad Chaurasia, General Secretary, Chaurasia Samaj, Gorakhpur, U.P. and Shri Swami Nath Chaurasia, Vice-President, Akhil Bharatiya Chaurasia Mahasabha, Gorakhpur, U.P. for inclusion of '**Barai and Chaurasia as synonym of Tamoli**' in the Central list of Backward classes for Uttar Pradesh.

2. Public Hearing

The Uttar Pradesh Bench of the Commission consisting of Hon'ble Justice Shri R.S. Singh, Chairperson, Smt. Neera Shastri and Dr. B. Baburao Verma Hon'ble Members held a public hearing in respect of this request at Lucknow on 16th December, 2004. At the public hearing, the State Government was represented by Shri Jagganath Yadav, Hon'ble Chairman and Shri R.B. Mishra, Secretary, State Backward Classes Commission of Uttar Pradesh. The Barai Chaurasia caste/community was represented by Shri Shrikrishna Prasad Chaurasia, General Secretary, Chaurasai Samaj, Gorakhpur, U.P., Shri Swami Nath Chaurasia, Vice-President, Akhil Bharatiya Chaurasia Mahasabha, Gorakhpur, U.P., Dr. Ashok Chaurasia and others.

AUTHENTICATED



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

Facts

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

Mandal List	-	Entry No	110	Tamoli
State List	-	Entry No	23	Tamoli, Barai, Chaurasia
Central List	-	Entry No	22.	Tamoli

4. One of the representatives, Dr. Ashok Chaurasia, stated that the caste/community is included in Mandal list as well as in the State List and there is no difference between Tamoli, Barai and Chaurasia. He further stated that there are social as well as economic relations between these castes/communities. The only difference is 'Barai's cultivate 'Paan', whereas the marketing is done by 'Tamoli's. Also people of Tamoli caste feel that 'Tamoli' is not a respectable name in society, as other castes frequently refer to them as "Teli Tamoli".

5. Shri Shrikrishna Prasad Chaurasia, General Secretary, Chaurasia Samaj, Gorakhpur, U.P., stated that his caste 'Barai and Tamoli' are the same, the only difference being that, 'Barai' cultivate Paan, whereas 'Tamoli' are involved in preparation of Paan and serving it to others in society. Marriage relations exist between Barai and Tamoli. He further stated that 'Barai' caste is found in twenty- five districts of Eastern UP, and in their land revenue 'Barai' has been mentioned, but they are not issued certificate by concerned local officials since the Central List includes only 'Tamoli'.

He also stated that female of the caste/community work very hard as they have to water the plants frequently carrying small pots on their shoulder and look after the plants constantly till they grow.

AUTHENTICATED



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

6. The Barai Chaurasia caste/community is described in the ethnographic accounts as follows:-

W. Crooke, Tribes and Castes of North Western India, Vol.IV, pp.355-360.

Tamboli, Tamoli – (Sanskrit tambula, the pungent and aromatic leaf of the piper betel) – The caste which is devoted to the cultivation and sale of pan (Sanskrit Parna, “the leaf,” par excellence). The man who cultivates the plant is properly called Barai, but the respective functions of the Tamboli and barai are not clearly defined. In Benaras, according to Mr. Sherring, there is no real distinction between them. There the Tamboli sells betel-nut as well as pan, and appears to be more of a wholesale trader than the Barai. The sub-castes of both Tambolis and Barais are very similar, and if there is any real distinction it is very ordinarily overlooked.

At the last Census they were enumerated under the sub-castes of – **chaurasiya**, who seem to take their name from Pargana Chaurasi in the Mirzapur District; **Barai**, from the town of Jais in the Rae Bareilly District and Kathiyar.

The special occupation of the caste is cultivation and sale of Pan.

K.S. Singh, India's Communities, Vol.IV, pp.291-294

Barai – The name Barai is derived from Barej, a local word for the shed for growing the betel vine. They are distributed in M.P., U.P. and Bihar. Russell and Hiralal trace their origin to a Brahman. The betel vine leaf is known as pan, which is derived from the Sanskrit word Parna, meaning leaf.

In Uttar Pradesh, the **Barai** are also called Baseeth in the countryside, and **Chaurasia or Tamboli** in the cities.

The major economic pursuit of the Barai is horticulture in the form of the cultivation of betel vine, followed by agriculture. Most of them possess small patches of land and get loans from the government for the cultivation of betel (bheet) for the development of horticulture.

AUTHENTICATED


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

Women take part in agricultural operation, plucking and arranging betel leaves and contribute significantly in the trade and business activities.

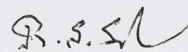
12. The Bench observed that the caste/community in terms of caste system is identified/linked with traditional occupation of cultivation. 'Barai' cultivate Paan, whereas 'Tamoli' are involved in preparation of Paan and serving it to others in society. Marriage relations exist between Barai and Tamoli. It is also evident from the ethnographic and evidence given before the Commission that "Barai and Chaurasia" are synonyms of caste/community "Tamoli". They are socially and educationally backward. As such "Barai and Chaurasia" deserves to be included in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Uttar Pradesh as synonyms of "Tamoli".

12. Findings

From the evidence and documents presented at the time of public hearing and also on a perusal of ethnographic literature by eminent authors, the Bench finds that the "Barai and Chaurasia" caste/community of Uttar Pradesh is akin to the Tamoli of Uttar Pradesh and is a socially backward class in Uttar Pradesh whose traditional occupation was Cultivation and sale of Pan. Therefore, the "Barai and Chaurasia" as synonyms of "Tamoli" be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Uttar Pradesh and the amended entry will be as follows:-

"22. Tamoli ,Barai, Chaurasia"


(Neera Shastri)


(Justice Ram Surat Singh)


(Dr. B. Baburao Verma)

AUTHENTICATED


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

13. **Advice of the Commission**

The Commission considered and agreed in full with the above findings of the Uttar Pradesh Bench 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 :-

“Barai and Chaurasia” as synonyms of “Tamoli” be included at entry No.22 in the central list of backward classes for Uttar Pradesh and the amended entry will be as follows:-

“22. “Tamoli ,Barai, Chaurasia”


(Justice Ram Surat Singh)


(M.S. Matharoo)


(Neera Shastri)


(Dr. B. Baburao Verma)


(S.K. Purkayastha)

AUTHENTICATED


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