

National Commission for Backward Classes

Uttar Pradesh Bench

Case: **Request for inclusion of the castes/sub-castes/communities/synonyms in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the State of Uttar Pradesh**

I. Request

This case arises from the requests received in the National Commission for Backward Classes from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh/Request Makers for inclusion of the following castes/sub-castes/communities/synonyms in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the State of Uttar Pradesh:-

Castes/Communities

1. Rawat Rajput
2. Kurmi Patanwar
3. Joria
4. Katua
5. Tonk Kshatriya (Chimba Biradari)
6. Sanwat
7. Gada
8. Bhat
9. Muniri

II. Public Hearing

2. The Uttar Pradesh Bench of the Commission consisting of Dr. Subbha Somu, Hon'ble Member, and Shri Abdul Ali Azizi, Hon'ble Member held a Public Hearing at Lucknow on 17th June, 2008 in respect of the requests received from Uttar Pradesh Government and representationist of the castes/communities . At the Public Hearing, the

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State Government was represented by Dr Kedar Prasad, Secretary, Uttar Pradesh Backward Class Commission and Shri Krishna Kumar, Research Officer and other officials of Uttar Pradesh Backward Class Commission.

III. Facts

3. Out of the 9 castes/communities, only 6 castes/communities appeared before the Commission's Bench:-

1. Kurmi Patanwar
2. Gada
3. Rawat (Rajput)
4. Tonk Kshatriya (Chimba Viradari)
5. Bhat
6. Muniri

4. The following are the entries/similar entries in respect of the castes/communities in various Lists and the submissions made by the representatives of the castes/communities who appeared before the Bench:

1. Kurmi-Patamwar

Mandal List : SI No. 78. Kurmi
State List : SI No. 9. Kurmi, Chanau, Patel, Patanwar,
Kurmi-Mall, Kurmi-Sainthwar
Central List : Entry No. 9. Kurmi, Kurmi-Sainthwar/Kurmi-Mall
(Similar Entries)

On behalf of the caste/community 'Kurmi Patanwar', its representative Shri Prem Sagar Patel, National President, Kishan Bachao Andolan, LIG - 57, Raptinagar, Phase-I, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, appeared before the Commission's Bench and stated that Patanwar is a sub-caste of Kurmi. Their main occupation is "Agriculture". This caste/community is socially, economically and educationally below other backward classes like Kurmi, Yadava of the state. Most of the caste/community members

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are engaged in Agriculture related work. None of the caste/community members are holding high ranks in jobs i.e. Indian Administrative Service and other similar jobs. The caste/community is in the State list of OBCs at serial No. 9. Vide the filled in questionnaire, the President of the Association has mentioned the following:-

- (a) The total population of the caste /community in the state is 4 to 5 lakhs which is 0.6 percent of the total backward class population of the state.
- (b) The caste/community is mainly concentrated in the districts of Gorakhpur, Maharajganj, Devaria, Kushinagar, Varanasi, Sonbhadra, Pratapgarh, Mirjapur, and Allahabad.
- (c) They mainly depend on agriculture and manual labour. Approximately 20 percent of the caste/community members are landless and they earn their livelihood as manual labourer. Women are also engaged in agriculture and manual labour for subsistence of the family.
- (d) Some People of this caste/community are engaged in rearing of animals.
- (e) Only 16.0 percent of the caste/community members are literate.
- (f) None of the caste/community members hold any posts in Central Government jobs. Only few members are holding posts under state government.

5. The ethnographic account in respect of the caste/community "**Kurmi Patanwar**" is as under:-

- (i) In the "**Tribes and Castes of North Western India**", W. Crooke, Vol.I, **Cosmos Publications, New Delhi Reprint 1975, pp. 347-357**, Kurmi, Kunbi caste is described as below:-

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“ A very important cultivating caste widely distributed throughout the Province. Various derivations have been proposed for the name. Some take it to be derived from Sanskrit Kutumba, ‘family’, others from Sanskrit Krishi, cultivation’,.....”

.....At the last Census the Kurmis were enumerated in eleven main endogamous bodies or sub-castes-Baiswar, Bardiha (“bullock-men”-bard, bardh, “an ox”,..... In Mirzapur they have the Jaiswar, Chanau, **Patanwar or residents of Patna**”, Sandhauwa or “ washers of hemp” (San-dhona).....In Gorakhpur are found the **Patanwar**; Saithwar, whom Dr. Buchanan identifies with the Ajudhiyas of Bihar, **who claim there to be of the highest dignity and the purest blood and are usually cultivators.....**

.....Their social status is respectable. They will not eat Kachchi even if cooked by a Brahman who is not their Guru. The same rule applies to Pakki. Some local Brahmans will eat Pakki from their hands, and the same is the case with respectable Kshatriyas.....” According to the Census 1891, the distribution of Sainthwar sub-caste of Kurmis was – 2 in Mathura, 98626 in Gorakhpur and 294 in Azamgarh districts.

(ii) **K.S. Singh, People of India, National Series Vol. V, pp. 1923-1924**
“Kurmi” caste in Uttar Pradesh is described as below:-

In Uttar Pradesh the Kurmi have several territorial groups, such as Baiswar, Gangwar, Jaiswar, Katiyar, Sachan and Sanadhya. Crooke (1896) also records several territorial groups similar to the groups that exist now. He terms them as endogamous Subcastes, which are divided into several subdivisions. They use Katiyar as their surname. The majority of them are below medium statured dolichocephalics with a narrow forehead, broad nose and an oblong facial profile. On the whole they exhibit a physical type prevalent in the lower order of the Indo-Aryan-speaking groups and the central Dravidian tribal populations.....According to the 1931 census, the population of the Kurmi in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh was 17,56,214. Hindi, and Indo-Aryan language and the Devanagari script are used for both inter and intergroups communication. The Kurmi are non-vegetarian and their staple food included wheat, rice and pulses.

The Kurmi of Uttar Pradesh are a landowning and agricultural community and they also domesticate cows and buffaloes. Those who have attained some formal education prefer service to agriculture, while some of them are self-employed. They interact with the Chamar, Barhai, Lohar, Nai, Dhobi and Kahar. They accept water, kachcha and pucca foods from other communities and share wells, water sources, crematoria, religious shrines, fairs and festivals with them. There are businessmen, government servants, engineers, doctors and persons in the defence services among the. They are progressive farmers and avail themselves of benefits of all developmental schemes and plans. They favour familyu

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2. Gada

Mandal List : Nil
State List : Sl No. 74. **Gada**
Central List : Nil

On behalf of the caste/community 'Gada' its representatives Shri Shamim Ahmed, General Secretary, Gada Welfare Association and Mohd. Salim, Gram Pradhan, Village- Nirana, Distt. – Muzaffar-Nagar, Uttar Pradesh appeared before the Commission's Bench and stated the following:-

The caste/community Gada is considered extremely backward in the State. The caste/community mainly depend on agriculture and manual labour for their livelihood. Women and Children of the caste/community are also engaged in manual labour. The total population of the caste/community in the State is approximately 16.0 lacs which is nearly 3.16 percent of the total backward castes population in the State. This caste/community is mainly concentrated in the districts of Meerut, Saharanpur, Muzaffar Nagar, Aligarh and Ghaziabad of the State. It is also in the state list of neighbouring State. The representation of the caste/community in Parliament and State Legislature is negligible whereas only few members of the caste/community represent in Panchayati Raj Institution. Socially the caste/community is below other backward class of the State. The Literacy rate of the caste/community is low. Hence they need to be included in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Uttar Pradesh so that the caste/community can avail the benefits which are available to the OBCs.

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Vide the filled in questionnaire, they have made the following submissions:-

- The total population of the caste/community is approximately 16.0 lakh in the State.
- The caste/community is in the backward list of neighbouring States.
- The caste/community peoples reside in the districts of Meerut, Saharanpur, Muzaffar Nagar, Aligarh and Ghaziabad of the State.
- The caste/community is engaged in agriculture, only few have their own agriculture land. 70.0 percent of the caste/community people work as manual labourer and on brick klin.
- The caste/community is considered as backward in the State.
- The caste/community members are generally from Muslim community.
- Women and children of the caste/community are also engaged as manual labourer in brick klin and agricultural field.
- Except in Panchayati Raj Institutions, they have no representations in Parliament and State Legislative Assembly.
- Literacy rate of the caste/community in the State is 8.0 percent.
- Total number of caste/community members employed in the State Governmentt and in Central Government Service are very low.
- 65.0 percent of the caste/community people reside in Kuccha houses and rest in pucca houses.
- Representation of the caste/community in different jobs are as follows:-

	Class-I	Class-II	Class-III	Class-IV
(a) State Govt.	-	10	40	80
(b) Central Govt.	Nil	10	50	135

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The ethnographic account in respect of the caste/community "**Gada**" is as under:-

(i) "**The Tribes & Castes of North-Western India**", **William Crooke**, Vol.-II, (pp391-392) Gada is described as below:-

Gada - (garna, "to bury") - A tribe of industrious cultivators practically confined to the Saharanpur and Muzaffarnagar Districts. Of them Sir H.M. Elliot writes:- "They are Musalmans and are frequently considered to be, like the Jhojhas, converted slaves. They themselves assert that they were formerly sombansi Rajputs; that they came from Nagara Bambera, to the west of Delhi and that Akbar located them in desert tracts, which have now been cleared by their industry. There seems reason to believe that they have the sub-divisions of Bargujar, Chauhan etc., but there are also perhaps among them descendants of several inferior castes. All those on being converted to Muhammadanism, were called (perhaps contemptuously) Gara from the new practice they had adopted of byrying instead of burning their dead. They now apply the term to themselves, but endeavour to disguise its origin by pretending to high birth. The Garas generally intermarry in their own clan; but there is a set of villages in Saharanpur, called Sayyid Gara, from the fact of the daughters of Garas marrying into Sayyid families." The complete census Returns name 51 sections. Some of them are local, such as Chaurasiya, Multani; others are those of well-known castes and septs, such as Bargujar, Bhal, Bhatti, Chandela, Chauhan, Julaha, Pundir, Rajput, Rathaur; others are purely Muhammadan as Ansari, Aziz, Bahlm, Ghor, Myghal, Mughal-Bharsawa, Muhammadi, Shaikh, Shaikh Haidar, and Yar Muhammad.

The Garas are good cultivators, but very quarrelsome and ligigious. This is recorded in the native proverb that a Gara is as great a nuisance in a village as thorns in a field - Ganw men Gara; Khel men Jhara.

IV. Findings

The Commission while considering the above cases took note of the following in respect of the socio-economic and educational status of the castes/sub-castes/synonyms under reference:

- a) The castes/sub-castes/synonyms under consideration belong to the lower strata of the society. These castes/sub-castes/synonyms are already in the State list of Backward Classes.

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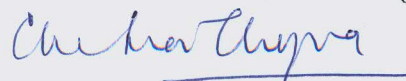
- b) As per information provided by the State and the submissions made by the representatives of the castes/ sub-castes/synonyms, the Bench observed that the representation of these castes/ sub-castes/synonyms in service seems to be low. Similarly a vast majority of the members of these castes/ sub-castes/synonyms are engaged in their traditional occupations or working as manual labour which fall within the lower rung of occupational hierarchy. Their living conditions are also indicative of their poor socio-economic conditions.
- c) During the Public Hearing, members of different castes/communities and the State Government who were present did not oppose to the submissions made by the representatives of the above castes/sub-castes/ synonyms in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- d) The State Government recommended that as these castes/communities are already included in the State's List, they may also be included in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Uttar Pradesh.

II. In view of the foregoing facts and evidence, the submissions made by the representatives of the castes/sub-castes/communities/synonyms and the representatives of the State Government, evidence & documents presented at the time of public hearing and also on 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 the following castes/sub-castes/synonyms are socially & educationally backward and should be included in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Uttar Pradesh:

1. **Kurmi-Patanwar**
2. **Gada**

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After inclusion of the above castes/communities, the respective entries will read as under:

“9. Kurmi, Kurmi-Sainthwar/Kurmi-Mall, Kurmi-Patanwar”

“76. Gada”

The following cases will be considered by the Commission after receipt of further information from the State Government and State Backward Classes Commission and may be kept pending till such time:-

1. Rawat (Rajput)
2. Tonk Kshatriya (Chimba Viradari)
3. Bhat
4. Muniri



(Dr. Subbha Somu)
Member



(Abdul Ali Azizi)
Member

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V. Advice of the Commission

The Commission considered and agreed in full with the above Finding of the Uttar Pradesh 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 following castes/communities/sub-castes/synonyms are socially and educationally backward and should be included in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the State of Uttar Pradesh. The entry after inclusion will read as under:-

"9. Kurmi, Kurmi-Sainthwar/Kurmi-Mall, Kurmi-Patanwar"

"76. Gada"

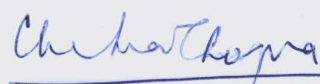

(Justice S. Ratnavel Pandian)
Chairperson


(Dr. Subbha Somu)
Member


(Ram Awadhesh Singh)
Member


(Abdul Ali Azizi)
Member

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