

National Commission for Backward Classes

Orissa Bench

Findings

Case: Request for inclusion of the caste/community "**Dalua-Paik**" 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 the caste/community "Dalua-Paik" 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 Hon'ble Member Secretary Shri S.K. Purkayastha held a public hearing on 17.04.2007 at Bhubaneshwar to examine the request for inclusion of Dalua-Paik 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, Member-Secretary, Orissa Backward Classes Commission, Shri G.N.Sethi, Deputy Secretary, ST/SC Development Department and other officials.

AUTHENTICATED


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

III. Facts

The relevant entries in different lists relating to "Dalua-Paik" are as below: -

Mandal List

Nil

State List

195. Dalakhandayat, Dalua-Paik

Central List

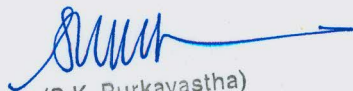
Nil

IV. Submission at the Public Hearing.

Shri Kishore Chandra Patra, Advisor, Dalapati Mahasabha, Mahuri Taluk, Berhampur, Ganjam District appeared on behalf of his caste/community before the Commission Bench and stated the following:

1. That the Government of Orissa has included the above caste in the State list as socially and educationally backward class along with other 9 sub-castes vide Resolution No 25455/TW dtl 10.09.1993 & published in the Orissa Gazette No. 40 (supplement) dt. 01.10.1993
2. That the above caste is dwelling exclusively in southern orissa and particularly in the districts of Ganjam & Gajapati.
3. That the above caste is also known as Dalua/Dalapati/ Alias Dalua Paika/ alias Lenka Dalua/ Rawa Dalua etc.
4. Most people of the caste are living in rural & backward villages of the Southern Orissa. They are deprived of all facilities and amenities provided by the Government.

AUTHENTICATED


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

5. The people of the caste were soldiers and warriors known in Orissa as Paikas and mostly used by the then Kings of princely State under Kalinga.
6. The caste people were kept in charge of defence of their States for keeping law and order and also for protecting the religious monuments from Mogul attack.
7. During peacetime the people were engaged in cultivating. Rent-free lands were gifted to them as "Inam" by the kings.
8. In the course of time the Princely States were abolished and the British ruled the country and when India became independent lands were divided among the families, which are the only source of income to eke their livelihood.

V. During the Public Hearing the Orissa Backward Classes Commission furnished in writing the following facts:

- The estimated population of this caste/community is 93,200.
- The population of the caste/community is mainly concentrated in Cuttack. Nayagarh & Dhenkanal District.
- The original occupation of the community was to work in the battlefield as military force of the country. They served as soldiers at times of war and in return they were given lands free of rent. After the Paik Revolution in the Year 1817 by Buxi Jagabandhu, the British Govt. withdrew the facilities available to the community in the military force and forfeited the landed property, which were enjoyed by them free of rent. Thereafter they became poor and financially weak in the society. The literacy rate of the community is not so high. The employment of the people of the community under Govt. /Govt. Undertaking is negligible.

AUTHENTICATED


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

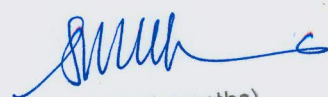
- The community is not represented in any other elective body except that there are two members in panchayati Samitis and seven members in Gram Panchayatas.
- The average annual income per family ranges from 5,000/- to 6,000. The average land holding per family is about 1.5 Acres. Generally the people of the community live in thatched houses with low roofs.

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

Caste and Tribes of Southern India, Vol-II, Asian Educational Services, New Delhi, Madras, Reprint 1993, First published, 1909) by E. Thurston and K. Rangachari

Doluva. "The Douluva of Ganjam are, according to the Madras Census Report 1891, supposed to be the descendants of the old Rajahs by their concubines, and were employed as soldiers and attendants. The name is said to be derived from the Sanskrit word dola, meaning army." The Doluvas claim to be descended from the Puri Raja by their concubines, and say that some of them were employed as sirdars and paiks under these Rajahs. They are said to have accompanied a certain Puri Raja who came south to wage war, and to have settled in Ganjam. They are at the present day mainly engaged in agriculture, though some are traders, bricklayers, cart-drivers, etc. The caste seems to be divided into five sections, named Kondaiyito, Lenka, Rabba, Pottia, and Beharania, of which the first two are numerically the strongest and most widely distributed. Kondaiyito is said to be derived from Kondo, an arrow, and indicate warrior. The Kondaiyitos sometimes style themselves Raja Doluvas, and claim superiority over the other sections. It is noted, in the Madras Census Report 1891, that "Oriya Zamindars get wives from this sub-division, but the men of it cannot marry into the Zamindar's

AUTHENTICATED



(S.K. Purkayastha)
Member-Secretary

National Commission for Backward Classes
New Delhi

families. They wear the sacred thread, and are writers." In former days, the title writer was applied to the junior grade of Civil Servants of the East India Company. It is now used to denote copying clear in an office.

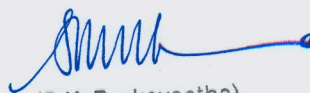
People of India: India's Communities, Vol. IV, by K. S. Singh (Page 748-749).

Dalua. "Reported to be a distorted form of the word Dalapati, meaning chief of a group of soldiers, the Dalua are traditionally a warrior community of the Ganjam district of Orissa. They speak the Oriya language and use its script. The Dalua practise agriculture nowadays, which is supplemented by business or government service. They are Vaishnavite and celebrate all Hindu festivals. A council has been recently formed to exercise social control. During Durga Puja, they worship their ancestral weapons. By and large, they have a positive attitude towards formal education, family planning and other developmental programmes. They have availed themselves of the facilities extended by financial institutions, and of the public distribution system and employment programmes of the government to improve their socio-economic condition."

Sri Ram Chandra Acharaya in his article "THE ORIYA WAR-LOVING RACE OF SOUTHERN INDIA"

DALAPATIS (the Daluas). The main occupation of the old Oriya PAIKS was agriculture, but they were being ready to fight in the battlefields as per the orders of the rulers whenever required. The rulers rewarded the PAIKS of their respective States with landed properties known as 'Inams' for their work in the war and supplied them with war weapons and armours. The PAIKS having shown excellent performance in the battlefield were being rewarded and designated by the rulers. The warriors were given war weapons, dress, horses as rewards. The heirs of

AUTHENTICATED



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

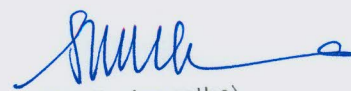
those PAIKS live in the different regions of present Orissa. Now-a-days most of them are known as 'Samasthan Paiks'. They are working under different Zamindars by enjoying the landed property earned by their ancestors as inam. The war weapons and dresses given by the ancient rulers are found with most of them.

The heirs of the old PAIK race are now known as the Khandayats or the DALAPATIS (the Daluas). Those who live in the political Orissa are known as Khandayats (Person who control the swords) and those who live in Ganjam are generally called the DALUAS. Some of the people of the Khandayat or DALUA race, especially most of the DALUAS of the Ganjam region are designated with the ancestral designations or designations given by modern rulers such as; Ranahandol, Ranasandha, Dala Behera, Ranabheri, Ranabaja, Japatsingh, Ranbir Ranasingh, Bairiganjan, Baliar Singh, Bahabalindra, Sardar etc. The surnames of some of the Daluas of Ganjam are Sahani (Senani or the army), Samal (Samarika or military), Nayak, Bishoyi, Patra etc. Those who were appointed as the chief of the army were designated as Sardars. The aforesaid weapon-worship, designation and Inam land is the witness to the bravery and military excellence of the old Oriyas.

VII. Findings

From the evidence and documents 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 Dalua is a distorted form of the word Dalapati, meaning chief of a group of soldiers, the Dalua are traditionally a warrior community of the Ganjam district of Orissa. They speak the Oriya language and use its script. It has also been mentioned that the heirs of the old PAIK race are known as the Khandayats or DALAPATIS (the Daluas). The original

AUTHENTICATED



(S.K. Purkayastha)
Member-Secretary

National Commission for Backward Classes
New Delhi

occupation of the caste/community was to work in the battlefield as military force of the country. They served as soldiers at times of war and in return they were given lands free of rent. In the past conferment of Jagir and similar honours by local kings was normally limited to the advanced sections of the society.

One of the representative, viz., Shri Kishore Chandra Patra, Advisor, Dalapati Mahasabha had admitted the fact that the "Dalua-Paik" is also known as Dalua/Dalapati/ Alias Dalua Paika/ alias Lenka Dalua/ Rawa Dalua etc. The people of the caste were soldiers and warriors known in Orissa as Paikas and mostly used by the then Kings of princely State under Kalinga. The caste people were kept in charge of defence of their States for keeping law and order and also for protecting the religious monuments from Mogul attack. During peacetime the people were engaged in cultivating. Rent-free land was gifted to them as "Inam" by the kings.

A caste, which has its origin in military service and has grown into a military-feudal caste cannot be in any way considered to be socially backward caste/community but on the contrary is a socially advanced and prestigious caste/community. Therefore, the "Dalua-Paik which is closely associated with Khandayat or DALAPATIS (the Daluas) represented the officers of the ancient militia and held jagir lands, do not constitute a socially backward class and therefore do not deserve inclusion in the list of backward classes.

In fact this Commission in its Advice No. Orissa 76-77/2000 dated 22.02.2000 has examined Khandayat, the main caste/sub-caste and their status and rejected the main Khandayat and their sub-caste as not eligible to be under OBC List.

With the glorious past history and with the acknowledged fact that the Dalua-Paik as a caste from their very inception were associated with the prestigious profession of soldiering and that with the succour and advantage provided by such profession they were able to emerge as one of the prominent community in the history of Orissa, the right course for them would have been to be happy in their prestige and seek avenues of advancement in the modern conditions on their own strength for which they have the potential and to leave the protective area of BC-

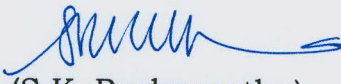
AUTHENTICATED


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

categorization and consequent supportive measure to genuinely backward classes who need special help to advance so that they can also move to a stage of equality with the advanced sections of society where from they can proceed on their own strength.

In view of the above facts and position, it is the conclusion of the Bench that the caste/community 'Dalua-Paik' is not socially backward but on the contrary is socially advanced and prestigious castes/sub-castes/communities and therefore the Request for their Inclusion in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa should be rejected.


(Justice S. Ratnavel Pandian)
Chairperson


(S.K. Purkayastha)
Member-Secretary


(Dr. Subbha Somu)
Member

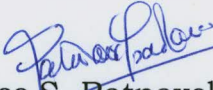
AUTHENTICATED

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

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 caste/community/sub-caste/synonym "Dalua-Paik" is socially advanced. Therefore the request for inclusion in the Central list of backward classes for Orissa be rejected.


(Justice S. Ratnavel Pandian)
Chairperson


(S.K. Purkayastha)
Member-Secretary


(Dr. Subbha Somu)
Member

AUTHENTICATED

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