

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

Hon'ble Shri Justice M.N.Rao, Chairperson

Hon'ble Shri S.K.Kharventhan, Member

Hon'ble Shri Deepak Katole, Member

Hon'ble Dr. Shakeel uz-Zaman Ansari, Member

Case: Request for Inclusion of "GARUDI, GARUDIGA, GARADIGA" caste/community in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the State of Karnataka.

I. Request:

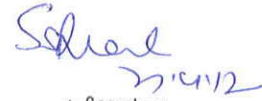
1. The State Government of Karnataka has requested the NCBC for inclusion of 'GARUDI, GARUDIGA, GARADIGA' caste/community in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Karnataka.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

2. The Commission consisting of Justice Shri M. N. Rao, Hon'ble Chairperson, Shri S. K. Kharventhan, Hon'ble Member, Shri Deepak Katole, Hon'ble Member and Dr. Shakeel uz-Zaman Ansari, Hon'ble Member, held a Public Hearing in respect of the request of the State Government for inclusion of 'GARUDI, GARUDIGA, GARADIGA' castes in

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New Delhi

the Central List of OBCs for the State of Karnataka on 14th & 15th March, 2012. At the Public Hearing, the State Government was represented by Shri Shantaraj, Member-Secretary, Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes.

III Findings

3. In spite of wide publicity, no representative of the community was present to put forth their views.

4. In the State List of Backward Classes under Category I at Sl.No.90, three communities are included as under:-

(a) Garudi (b) Garudiga (c) Garadiga.

5. In the Ethnographic Account, People of India – All Communities at pages 975-976, the community is described as under:

“The Garodi are a landless people who earn their livelihood through snake-charming and by performing magic shows. Apart from this, they are also involved in wage labour”.

6. We had a little doubt whether the three communities viz. Garudi, Garudiga, Garadiga, whose inclusion is now sought by the State Government are synonyms of Garodi, which is described in the Ethnographic Account. However, we find that there is no confusion in describing them as synonyms of Garodi.

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7. The report of Venkataswamy Commission describes the community, as under:

“Garudiga or Garadi who are originally a class of mendicants and snake-charmers in Telugu country and Mysore, given to performing various sorts of juggling and acrobats, are also included under this category as a related group.”

8. Persons following this traditional occupation belong to both Hindu and Islam religions and therefore the inclusion of these communities in the List of Backward Classes cannot be treated as referable only to Hindus since it is an occupational group: irrespective of religion all of them must be treated as backward.

9. Two Commissions recommended inclusion of these communities in the State List of Backward Classes. Their traditional occupation being snake-charming and performing juggling and acrobats, their position in the society is very low. A caste/community, the members of which are following the traditional occupation of snake charming and performing magic shows can be very well described as socially backward, which backwardness has seriously affected its progress in the educational field culminating in economic backwardness.

10. We are therefore inclined to recommend for inclusion of these communities GARUDI, GARUDIGA, GARADIGA, (Hindu and Muslim) whose traditional occupation is snake charming and performing juggling and acrobats, in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Karnataka.

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IV. ADVICE OF THE COMMISSION

11. The Commission in view of the above findings has decided to tender the following Advice to the Central Government under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act, 1993 for necessary action under Section 9(2) of the NCBC Act:-

"The caste/community "GARUDI, GARUDIGA, GARADIGA" be included at entry no. 198 in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the State of Karnataka as follows:

"198. Garudi, Garudiga, Garadiga (Hindu and Muslim) (whose traditional occupation is snake-charming and performing juggling and acrobats)" (गारुडी, गारुडिगा, गाराडिगा (हिन्दु और मुस्लिम) (जिनका व्यावसायिक पेशा साँप का खेल दिखाना, बाजीगरी और कलाबाजी दिखाना होता है)



(Justice M. N. Rao)

Chairperson



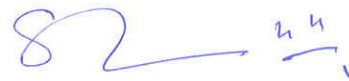
(S. K. Kharventhan)

Member



(Deepak Katole)

Member



(Dr. Shakeel uz-Zaman Ansari)

Member

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