

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 "BANAGARA" Community in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the State of Karnataka.

I. Request:

1. The State Government has requested the NCBC for inclusion of 'BANAGARA' caste/community along with 'BALE CHETTY' 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 'BANAGARA' caste in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Karnataka on 14th & 15th March, 2012. At the Public

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Hearing, the State Government was represented by Shri Shantaraj, Member-Secretary, Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes.

III Findings

3. In the Mandal List at Sl.No.24, two communities viz. 'Banna, Bannagar' are included. In the State List of Backward Classes, under Category III(A) at Sl.No.3, the following communities are mentioned:

"(a) Balija (b) Balajiga/Banajiga/Gowda Banajiga (c) Naidu (d) Telaga Balija/Telaga Banajiga (e) Setty Balija/Setty Banajiga/Banajiga Setty (f) Dasara Balija/Dasara Balajiga/Dasara Banajiga/Dasa Banajiga (g) Kasban (h) Munnur/Munnar/Munnur Kapu (i) Balegara/Bale Banajiga/Bale Balajiga/Bale Chetty/Banagara (j) Reddy (Balija) (k) Janappan (l) Uppar (Balija) (m) Tuleru (Balija)".

4. In the Central List of OBCs for the State of Karnataka at Entry No.167, the following communities are included:

"Balija, Balajiga, Banajiga, Bale Balajiga, Dasa Banajiga, Naidu, Bhogam/Teluga, Telaga Balija, Teluga Banajiga, Setty Balija, Setty Banajiga, Kasban, Mannur/Munnar, Mutrasi, Matracha, Janappan, Balegara, Lingayat Balegala/Baleshetaru".

5. Mr. Arun Jotawar, President, Akhil Karnataka Banagar Samaj (R) appeared before us at the Public Hearing and stated that 'Banagar' caste/community has nothing to do with 'Bale Chetty' or 'Balija' as it is not the sub caste or synonym of these communities. The traditional occupation of the community Banagar is dying yarn and stitching clothes. On their representation, the State Government of Karnataka instead of deleting this community Banagar from the Balija group of castes from Category III(A)

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has included the entire group in Category II(A) of the State List of Backward Classes.

6. There is any amount of confusion in this regard. The officials representing the State Government are not in a position to clarify the real position. To our understanding and as per the reports of several Commissions, 'Balija' community has nothing to do with dying yarn and stitching clothes. The castes whose profession is weaving, dying yarn and stitching clothes perhaps may constitute a group. Why this community 'Banagara' is included in the Balija group of castes, we are unable to understand.

7. The 'Banagara' community now wants inclusion in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Karnataka as a separate category. From the enquiries made by us and the material made available, we are satisfied that the caste/community 'Banagara' has nothing in common with 'Balija' group of castes. This fact was recognized long back by Mandal Commission which had included it at Sl.No.24 as a separate Backward Caste.

8. The backwardness of this caste is not in doubt at all. All over the country the castes whose profession is dying yarn and stitching clothes have been recognized as falling within the ambit of socially and educationally backward classes. We have retained the spelling of the caste as 'Banagara' since the same was mentioned in the State O.B.C. List.

9. In the face of these undisputed facts, we are inclined to include 'BANAGARA' community in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Karnataka at Sl.No.157 by way of addition. We therefore recommend that

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caste/community 'BANAGARA' be included in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Karnataka at Sl.No.157, by way of addition.

IV. ADVICE OF THE COMMISSION

10. 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 "BANAGARA" be included at entry no. 157 in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the State of Karnataka as follows:

" 157. Darzi, Bhavasar Kshatriya, Chippi, Chippiga, Simpi, Shimpi, Lingayat Simpy, Sivasimpy, Sai, Mirai, Rangari, Rangrez, Nilari, Namdev, Namdev Simpy, Rangare, Neelagar, Lingayat Neelagar, **Banagara (बनागारा).**"

(Justice M. N. Rao)

Chairperson

(S. K. Kharventhan)

Member

(Deepak Katole)

Member

(Dr. Shakeel uz-Zaman Ansari)

Member

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Secretary
National Commission for Backward Classes
New Delhi