

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

Justice M. N. Rao, Chairperson

Shri. S. K. Kharventhan, Member

Shri. Deepak Katole, Member

Case: Request for Inclusion of “BHOPA” in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for State of Orissa.

I. Request:

1. The Government of Orissa has requested the NCBC for inclusion of “BHOPA” community in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the State of Orissa. The same was considered by the NCBC during the Public Hearing held at Bhubaneshwar on the 26th of April, 2011.

II. Findings:

2. We have gone through the decision of the Orissa State Commission for Backward Classes, which has considered the claim of this community. In the finding recorded by the State Commission, it is stated that ‘BHOPA’ caste is also known as ‘RAULA’.

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3. The occupation of this caste is to render services to the temples by way of bathing and dressing the deities, beating ghanta (bell) at the time of puja and killing of animals sacrificed before the deities during festivals.

4. On consideration of the entire evidence on record, we are inclined to take the view that this community suffers from social and educational backwardness and their representation in the services is very negligible. The profession of this community is quite misleadingly referred to as performing temple services giving the impression that they are a sub-sect of Brahmins. They are not Brahmins but Sudras, which is evident from the fact that they are performing animal sacrifice in the temples and they also go from house to house performing Ghanta Patua with carrying the idol of village deity during festival season. They collect alms from the people during festival seasons, which is their main source of income apart from the small tips they get from the visitors to the small village temples.

5. It was found by the State Commission that in this community the total matriculates are 10%, graduates are 5%, postgraduates are 3%, and 50% eke out their livelihood as casual labourers. They all live in thatched houses built on mud walls. These findings of the State Commission, we have no reason to doubt.

6. At the public hearing no one has come forward before us to oppose the claim of this community for inclusion in the Central List of OBCs. Hence we allow the request of the Orissa State Government for inclusion of this community in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Orissa.

7. In view of what is stated above, the NCBC is of the view that '**BHOPA**' is socially and educationally backward community and it deserves to be included in the Central List of OBCs for the State of Orissa.

8. In the circumstances, the Commission is of the view that the caste "BHOPA" should be added as a new entry at Sl. No 201 in the Central List of Backward Classes for the State of Orissa.

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III. Advice of the Commission

9. The Commission considered all the aspects and decided to tender the following advice to the Central Government under Section 9 (1) of the NCBC Act, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9 (2) of the NCBC Act:-

“Bhopa” be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for the State of Orissa at a new Entry No. 201, as follows:-

“201 . Bhopa”



(Justice M. N. Rao)
Chairperson



(S. K. Kharventhan)
Member



(Deepak Katole)
Member

Note: At the public hearing held in Bhubaneswar on 25th and 26th April, 2011, the Chairperson Justice M.N. Rao and two other Members Hon'ble Shri S. K. Kharventhan and Hon'ble Shri Deepak Katole alone were present. Hon'ble Member- Secretary Smt. Chitra Chopra was availing of leave and so could not be present. The advice is therefore signed only by the above three.

AUTHENTICATED

