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सदस्य-सचिव
राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग
भारत सरकार
नई दिल्ली-110 066
MEMBER-SECRETARY
NATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR BACKWARD CLASSES
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW DELHI-110 066
02. 02. 1998

NCBC Advice No. West Bengal 27/97

Dear Shri Baksi,

I am sending herewith the Advice of the National Commission for Backward Classes under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act, 1993 for inclusion of 'Pallav Gope, Ballav Gope, Yadav Gope, Gope, Ahir and Yadav' as synonyms of the existing entry 'Goala-Gope' in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the Act.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely

(P.S. KRISHNAN)

Encl: As stated.

Shri K.K. Baksi
Secretary to Govt. of India
Ministry of Welfare
Shastri Bhavan
NEW DELHI

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

West Bengal Bench

Findings

Case: Request for inclusion of "Goala-Gope, Pallav Gope, Ballav Gope, Yadav Gope, Gope, Ahir and Yadav" castes/communities in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal.

Per Shri U.P. Singh, Member

I. Request

This case arises from the Requests received in this Commission from the following:-

- i) Shri Bajradhari Ghosh, P.O. Kamarpukur, Distt. Hooghly, West Bengal,
- ii) Shri K.C. Kapas, Secretary, All India Yadav Mahasabha, Calcutta, and,
- iii) Shri Netai Pada Ghosh, President, Bangiya Yadav Mahasabha, Calcutta.

for inclusion of "Goala-Gope , Pallav Gope, Ballav Gope, Yadav Gope, Gope, Ahir and Yadav" in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal. The information in the NCBC's Questionnaire was furnished by Shri K.C. Kapas, General Secretary, All India Yadav Mahasabha, Calcutta.

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P. S. KRISHNAN
Member Secretary
National Commission
for Backward Classes

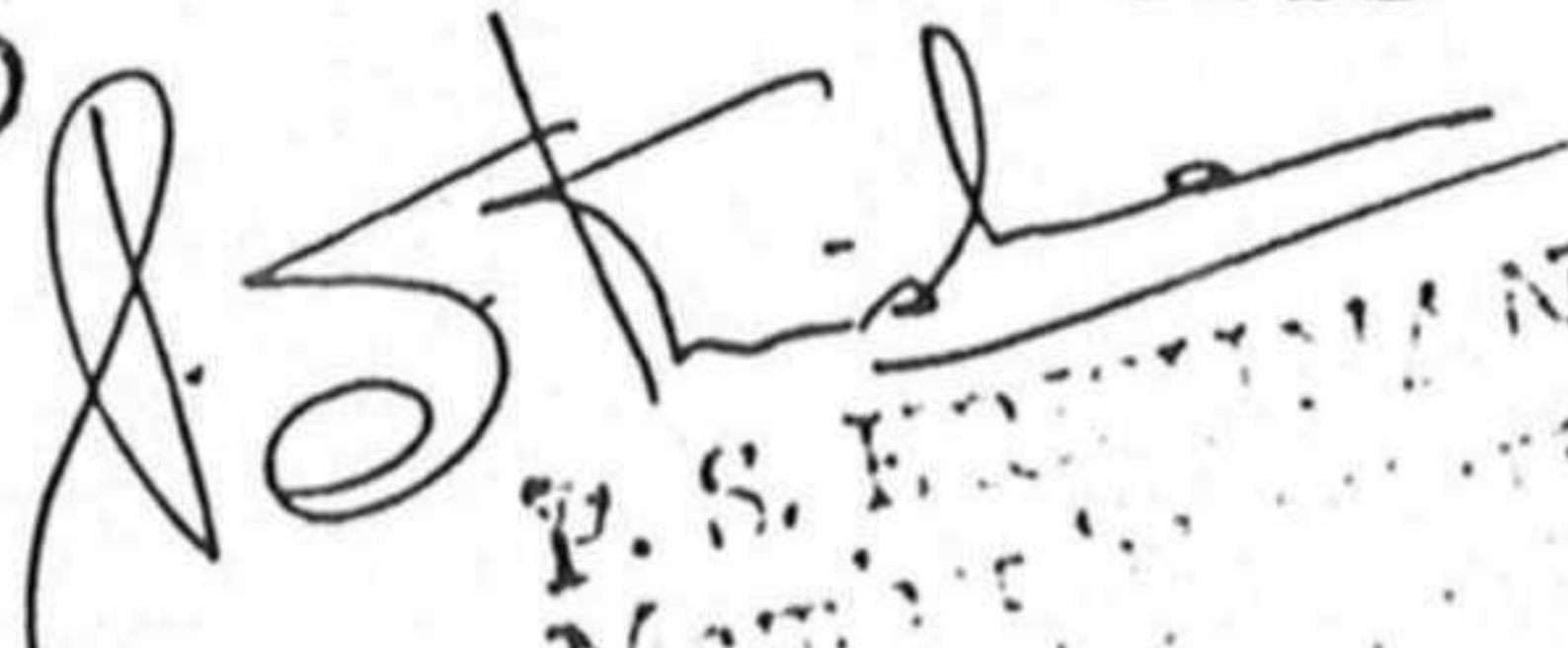
II. Public Hearing

2. The two-Member Bench of the Commission for West Bengal consisting of Hon'ble Members, Shri U.P. Singh and Shri Sahu Akshay Bhai, held a Public Hearing at Calcutta on 22.9.1997 to examine the Requests in respect of "Pallav Gope, Ballav Gope, Yadav Gope, Gope, Ahir and Yadav" only. The Bench made it known to the representatives of the caste/community that the "Goala, Gope" has already been included in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal at entry No. 3. Then the representatives of the community agreed and pressed for inclusion of the "Pallav Gope, Ballav Gope, Yadav Gope, Gope, Ahir and Yadav" caste/community as synonym of the existing entry "Goala, Gope". At the Public Hearing the State Govt. was represented by Shri S.B. Mondal, Special Secretary, Scheduled Castes & Tribes Welfare Department, Calcutta, Shri M.K. Chaudhary, Director, Cultural and Research Institute, Calcutta and Shri Amit Kumar Dutta, Deputy Director, Scheduled Castes & Tribes Welfare Department, Calcutta. The community was represented by Shri Prangobinda Ghosh, Secretary, Bangiya Yadav Mahasabha, Calcutta, Shri K.C. Kapas, Secretary and Shri Bajradhari Gosh, Member, All India Yadav Mahasabha, Distt. Hooghly, West Bengal.

III FACTS

3. The Mandal List included the relevant entry as follows:-
" 6. Ahir, Goala, Gope, Sadgope, Yadav, Gola, Gawar".
4. The State Govt. of West Bengal had no list of Backward Classes till after the Supreme Court Judgement in the Mandal case delivered on 16th Nov. 1992. For this reason, the

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Member ...
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expert Committee on Backward Classes could not on the basis of the principle of commonality, recommend a Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal as it could do for 14 other States, which already had their respective lists of Backward Classes, and therefore the Central Govt. also could not issue a Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal in 1993. The Govt. of West Bengal issued its first list of Backward Classes by its Notification No. 346-TW/EC/M-6/82 (I) dated 13th July 1994 in the Calcutta Gazette of the same date, which consisted of 14 entries including "Goala-Gope" at entry No. 11. The Government of India, Ministry of Welfare, by its Notification No. 163 dated 19.10.1994, issued a Common List of Other Backward Classes for West Bengal which consisted of the same 14 castes/communities including "Goala, Gope" at entry No. 3. The Govt. of West Bengal issued Notification No. 346-TW/EC/M-6/82 (I) dated 13th July, 1994 thereby substituting the entry made at No. 11 which reads as follows:

11, "Goala-Gope (Pallav Gope, Ballav Gope, Yadav Gope, Gope, Ahir and Yadav)'

5. The NCBC's Questionnaire filled up by the All India Yadav Mahasabha stated that their main caste/community is known by the name of "Yadav". In the past "Yadavas" were also known as Goala-Gope, Pallav Gope, Ballav Gope, Yadav Gope, Gope, Ahir and Yadav. The caste/community is found in all the districts of the State. In the State the caste/community is socially, educationally and financially backward. The community is more or less at the same level as that of "Kumbhakar" and "Satchasi" which have been included in the Central List of Backward Classes at entry Nos. 6 and 10 respectively. The occupation on which the members of the caste/community mainly depend for livelihood are "milkman, milk seller, sweetmeat shop, cultivation, daily labour, poultry, small rural business, etc. The members of the

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caste/community are engaged in both agricultural and non-agricultural work including day labour, milk seller, cattle and goat bearers and these occupations mainly involve manual labour. The women of the caste/community, as a general practice, are, for their own or for their family's livelihood, engaged as agricultural labourers. The children of this caste/community, as a general practice, are, also engaged in their own traditional occupation for supplementing their family's income. About 80% of the population of the caste/community (male, female and children taken together) are landless manual (both agricultural and non-agricultural) labourers. Almost negligible percentage of their population are engaged in Service. According to the NCBC Questionnaire 99% population of their caste live in Kachha houses.

6. The Mahasabha also enclosed a copy of the SCBC'S Questionnaire in which the information was furnished and contains some additional facts. The information in the SCBC'S Questionnaire states that majority of the children could achieve education upto the primary level and the drop-out rate was reported very high. The reasons for this might be involvement of children in their traditional occupation of milk selling etc.

7. H.H. Risle in his book "The Tribes and Castes of Bengal -Ethnographic Glossary" Firma Mukhopadhyay, Calcutta: India, 1981, Reprint, 1st edition, Calcutta 1891 (Bengal Secretariat Press) stated about the community "Goala, Goar, Ahir (Sanskrit, Abhira) the great pastoral caste of India. At the present day the designation Ahir seems to be confined to Behar and parts of Upper India, Goala being more commonly used in Bengal ----- Taken as a whole, the Goala traditions can hardly be said to do more than render it probable that one of their earliest settlements was in the neighbourhood of Mathura, and that this part of the country

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was the centre of distribution of the Caste. The large functional group known by the name Goala seems to have been recruited not merely by the diffusion along the Ganges Valley of the semi-Aryan Goalas of the North-Western Provinces, but also by the inclusion in the caste of pastoral tribes who were not Aryans at all. -----In point of social standing the Goalas of Behar rank with Kurmis, Amats and the other castes from whose hands a Brahman can take water. In Bengal they occupy a lower position, and are counted as inferior, not only to the Naba-Sakh, but also the cultivating division of the Kaibartta caste. The Orissa Goalas, on the other hand, after a high standard of ceremonial purity, and look down upon the Behar and Bengal divisions of the caste. Most Goalas combine Cultivation with their hereditary pursuits, and in Orissa and Singbhum some members of the caste hold landed tenures of substantial value (Vol, I, P.282 - 290). Risley also stated about Pallab or Ballabh, a Sub-Caste of Goalas in Bengal (Vol. II, P.155).

8. Census of India, 1931-"Bengal and Sikkim ", by A.E. Porter, USHA Publication, Delhi 1987, Reprint, First Edition, 1933, Vol. V, Part I Report (P-466) states about Goala (Gope) that "an interesting claim was put forward by the milkman castes to be returned as Yadav. This is the name hit upon by an all-India Association founded in 1924 with a view to encouraging a sense of social solidarity between all castes of milkmen by insistence upon a claim of common origin-----By choosing the family name of Sri Krishna it puts forward an implied claim to Kshatriya status which is also urged in agitations for further recruitment of the caste to the army in India -----. The name chosen is itself unexceptionable because it introduces no possibility of confusion: its only disadvantage is its unfamiliarity in Bengal, and on that ground the members of the community were advised and agreed not to return it without adding the current name of the caste".

9. Those present during public hearing, who were from different section of society, not only did not object to the inclusion of "Pallav Gope, Ballav Gope, Yadav Gope, Gope, Ahir and Yadav" as synonym of "Goala-Gope" in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal, but also supported it.

10. In keeping with the spread of this community and what may be called cognate Castes with similar occupational Background linked originally with cattle-rearing, the Bench finds that out of the 26 States of the country, they are included under one name or the other in the Central List of Backward Classes in as many as 18 States and out of the 6 Union Territories of the country, they are included in 3. Out of 8 States where they are not included, there is no Central List of Backward Classes and there cannot possibly be any in 4 States, viz., Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland. Leaving aside these 4 States, this community or its cognate castes are missing only in 4 States, viz., Sikkim, Manipur, J & K and Goa. In the case of Union Territories, the 6 Union Territories where they or their cognate castes are not included, viz., Andman & Nicobar Island, Lakshadweep and Chandigarh do not have a Central List of Backward Classes; But in Chandigarh they have been included in the Mandal List and in Lakshadweep, there cannot possibly be any Backward Classes, while in Andman & Nicobar Islands it is doubtful whether there can be any list of Backward Classes.

11. The following statement shows the entries in the Central Lists of this and cognate castes with similar occupational background linked originally with cattle-rearing in the plains:-

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S.No. Name of the State & UT

Entry regarding "Pallav Gope, Ballav Gope, Yadav Gope, Gope Ahir and Yadav

Entry No.

Names Given

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
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1.	Andhra Pradesh	93 (Group D)	Yadav (Golla)
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2.	Assam	9	Ghosh, Gop Gowala Gawala Goal Goala.
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3.	Bihar	104	Yadav (Gwala, Ahir, Ghasi, Gope)
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4.	Gujarat	2	Ahir Ayar Bericha
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5.	Haryana	26	Gawala, Gowala Ahir/Yadav
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6.	Himachal Pradesh	23	Gowala Gwala
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7.	Karnataka	22	Golla Gouli Gopal Yadav Asthanagolla Yadava Adavigolla Gopala Gopali
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8.	Kerala	67	Yadav (Kolaya, Ayar, Mayar, Maniyani and Iruman)
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9.	Madhya Pradesh	1	Ahir, Brajwasi, Gwali, Goli, Lingayati- Gaoli, Gowari (Gwari), Gowra, Gawari, Gwara, Jadav, Yadav, Raut, Thethwar, Gop/Gopal
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10.	Maharashtra	38	Gowli
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11. Orissa

43

Gola, Golla,
Gope, Sadgope,
Ahir, Gour,
Gouda, Goudo,
Mekala Golla,
Punnu Golla,
Yadav,
Laxminarayan
Gola and
Goudia Gola.

Gawala, Gowala

Ahir (Yadav)

Yadava
(including
Idaiyar,
Telugu
speaking
Idaiyar known
as Vaduga Ayar
or Vaduga
Idaiyar or
Goila, Mond
Golla and
Asthanthra
Golla)

Goala, Gope
Yadav

Ahir

Goala, Gope

Ahir, Yadav,
Gwala

12. Punjab

38

13. Rajasthan

1

14. Tamil Nadu

168

15. Tripura

13

16. Uttar Pradesh

1

17. West Bengal

3

18. Delhi

3

Union Territories

1. Dadra & Nagar
Haveli

2

2. Daman and Diu

19

3. Pondicherry

257

Ahir, Bharvad,
Yadav

Yadav, Gavli

Yadava (Konar,
Kolaya, Ayar,
Mayer
Muniyan,
Eruman)

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IV. Findings

12. From the above evidence, it is the Finding of the Bench that "Pallav Gope, Ballav Gope, Yadav Gope, Gope, Ahir and Yadav" are synonyms of "Goala-Gope" which is included in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal at entry No. 3 and they together constitute a Socially and Educationally Backward Class. Synonyms of an existing entry in the Central List are covered by para 9 of the Procedural Clarification on the NCBC's "Guidelines for Consideration of Requests for Inclusion and Complaints of under-Inclusion in the Central List of Backward Classes". Therefore, these synonyms should be included at entry no. 3 of the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal, and the amended entry after the inclusion of these synonyms be read as follows:-

"3, Goala-Gope (Pallav Gope, Ballav Gope, Yadav Gope, Gope, Ahir and Yadav)"

Askhaya

21.01.98

(Sahu Askhaya Bhai)

U.P. Singh
20.1.98

(U.P. Singh)

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P. S. Krishnan

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Member Secretary
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for Backward Classes

V. Advice of the Commission

13. The Commission considered and agreed in full with the above Findings of the Bench and decided to tender the following Advice to the Central Government under Section 9 (1) of the NCBC Act, 1993:-

"Pallav Gope, Ballav Gope, Yadav Gope, Gope, Ahir and Yadav" should be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal as synonyms of existing entry "Goala, Gope". The amended entry will be as follows:-

"3, Goala-Gope (Pallav Gope, Ballav Gope, Yadav Gope, Gope, Ahir and Yadav)"

Kshayan
21.01.98

Judant Singh
20.1.90

Lavender
22.1.98

S. K. S.
2.2.98

J. C. S. S. S.
27.1.95

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S. K. S.
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Member Secretary
National Commission
For Backward Classes

JUSTICE P. K. SHYAMSUNDAR
Chairperson
National Commission For
Backward Classes
Government of India
New Delhi.