

GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA
ST & SC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

No. 18079 /SSD, Bhubaneswar dated 30-5-08

PCR(A)-44/2007 (PT)

From

Dr. Taradatt, IAS.
Commissioner-cum-Secretary.

To

All members of the Orissa Scheduled Castes Welfare Advisory Board (OSCWAB).

Sub: Proceedings of the meeting of Orissa Scheduled Castes Welfare Advisory Board meeting held on 23.04.2008.

Sir/ Madam.

I am directed to send herewith a copy of the proceedings of the meeting of Orissa Scheduled Castes Welfare Advisory Board held on 23.04.2008 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Orissa in the 3rd Floor Conference Hall of the Orissa Secretariat for favour of information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

Taradatt 30.4.08

Memo No. 18080 / dated 30-5-08 Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Govt.

Copy alongwith copy of the enclosures forwarded to the P.S. to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Orissa / P.S. to Hon'ble Minister, ST&SC Development and Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare / PS to Hon'ble Minister, H & F.W / P.S. to Minister, Finance for kind information of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Orissa/ Hon'ble Minister, ST&SC Development & Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare/ Hon'ble Minister, H&F.W / Hon'ble Minister, Finance.

Memo No. 18081 / dated 30-5-08 Deputy Secretary to Govt. 30.4.08

Copy alongwith its copy of enclosures forwarded to P.S. to Chief Secretary / Development Commissioner-cum-ACS for kind appraisal of Chief Secretary, Orissa/ DC-cum-ACS.

Memo No. 18082 / dated 30-5-08 Deputy Secretary to Govt. 30.4.08

Copy alongwith its ~~copy~~ enclosures forwarded to all Depts. Of Govt. / RDC (CE) Cutack / Secretary, Board of Revenue Orissa, Cutack / Director, Fisheries Orissa Cutack / Director Health & Family Welfare Orissa, Bhubaneswar / Secretary, OPSC, Cutack / All Collectors for information & necessary action. They are requested to furnish compliance report to this Department early.

Memo No. 18083 / dated 30-5-08 Deputy Secretary to Govt. 30.4.08

Copy alongwith its ~~copy~~ enclosures forwarded to the Director, National commission for SCs, Mayukh Bhawan (Ground Floor), Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700091 / Director, SCST&RTI Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action.

Memo No. 18084 / dated 30-5-08 Deputy Secretary to Govt. 30.4.08

Copy alongwith its ~~copy~~ enclosures forwarded to All Officers / All Sections of this Deptt. (except Accounts Section) for information and necessary action. Action taken in the matter may please be intimated to PCR Section early.

Deputy Secretary to Govt.

30.4.08

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SCHEDULED CASTES WELFARE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD ON 23.04.2008 AT 11.30 AM IN THE 3RD FLOOR CONFERENCE HALL OF THE SECRETARIAT.

The list of members present in the meeting is at Annexure 'A'.

In the opening remarks, Hon'ble Chief Minister and Chairman, Scheduled Castes Welfare Advisory Board in addition to welcoming the members and officials to the meeting highlighted some of the Government interventions in terms of plans and programmes to address the developmental need of Scheduled Castes, particularly, those below the poverty line. The Board was informed about a time bound programme for distribution of house sites to the landless families. He mentioned that over and above the priority sector poverty alleviation programmes, welfare and social security schemes being implemented by Panchayati Raj and other line Departments, the ST & SC Development Department was implementing a number of income generating and vocational training schemes for the exclusive benefits of SC population. In this regard, he mentioned the additional share capital of Rs.10 crore sanctioned by Government for OSFDC and the high class training being held at College of Engineering and Technology with public private partnership for unemployed ST & SC graduate Engineers, which would ensure their placement in reputed IT companies. Hon'ble Chief Minister invited suggestions from Hon'ble members for expeditious social assimilation and development of Scheduled Caste population while emphasizing that the State Government would continue to work for socio-economic upliftment of Scheduled Castes through governmental plans and programmes.

Hon'ble Minister, ST & SC Development, Minorities & OBCs Welfare while joining Hon'ble Chief Minister in welcoming the participants drew attention of officials and non-officials to the problems of Scheduled Caste population in the State and called for whole hearted efforts by officials and non-officials to address them.

After introductory remarks of Hon'ble Chief Minister and Hon'ble Minister, agenda items were discussed as follows:

Item No. 1. Confirmation of the proceedings of the last meeting held on 21.07.2007:

Minutes of the Scheduled Castes Welfare Advisory Board meeting dated 21.07.2007 which had been circulated vide ST & SC Development Department letter No. 31324, dated 16.08.2007 were confirmed.

Item No. 2. Action taken on the decisions/resolutions of the last meeting held on 21.07.2007:

Commissioner-cum-Secretary, ST & SC Development Department explained in detail the actions taken by different Departments on the decisions/resolutions taken in the previous meeting of the Scheduled Castes Welfare Advisory Board dated 21.07/2007, which are indicated briefly at Annexure II.

Item No. 3. (i) Leasing out of land, (ii) Issuance of Pattas and (iii) issuance of Caste and Income Certificates (Proposals of Sri Arjuna Charan Sethi, MP):

The agenda item could not be discussed as Hon'ble member was not present in the meeting to explain the proposal.

Item No. 4. Proposals of Sri Jogendra Behera, MLA:

(i) Opening of SC & ST Cell in all the Departments of Government, Heads of Departments and district level offices:

The proposal was discussed at length and it was decided that all the Government Departments including Heads of Departments and Collectors should be instructed to address the problems faced by SC & ST employees with utmost seriousness. The existing grievance redressal mechanism should be utilized effectively. Representations made by ST & SC employees to their next higher authorities should be handled expeditiously in accordance with the legal provisions, rules and regulations etc.

(ii) Thirtyeight percent reservation for SC & ST students in Engineering, Medical Colleges etc. :

Hon'ble Member, Sri Jogendra Behera expressed his disappointment for delay in implementation of decisions taken by the Scheduled Castes Welfare Advisory Board in relation to reservation for SC and ST students in Engineering and Medical institutions and Colleges under the Higher Education Department.

Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Health & Family Welfare and Additional Secretary, Industries Departments reported that steps had been taken by both the Departments to reserve seats in Engineering and Medical institutions in proportion to SC and ST population and the proposal drawn by both the Departments jointly would be acted upon after Cabinet approval.

Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Higher Education Department stated that the reservation of seats in proportion to SC & ST population in Colleges at present was being done in two phases in such a way that no eligible SC and ST students would remain deprived of education. While 12 % seats for STs and 8 % for SCs had been reserved at the initial stage, another 10 % seats for STs and 8 % for SCs were allowed in event of eligible SC & ST students being available for admission by creating additional seats in the Colleges. He further reported that the proposal for reserving 22.5 % seats for STs and 16.25 % for SCs in one go was pending before the Government for orders.

(ii) Non-implementation of the decision of Scheduled Castes Welfare Advisory Board dated 21.07.2007 by RDC, Central Division and Board of Revenue, Cuttack.

Hon'ble Member, Sri Jogendra Behera brought to the notice of the Scheduled Castes Welfare Advisory Board that specific decisions taken in the last Scheduled Castes Welfare Advisory Board meeting dated 21.07.2007 in relation to promotional appointments to the post of Section Officer (Level II) grade in the office of RDC, Central Division and Board of Revenue, Cuttack had not been acted upon.

Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Revenue & DM Department stated that the mistakes committed in promoting employees to Section Officer (Level II) in the office of RDC, Central Division and Board of Revenue, Cuttack were attributable to inadequate understanding of Supreme Court judgement in Nagraj & Others Vrs. Union of India & Others and steps were being taken to do the needful.

(iii) Extension of long term lease in favour of fisherman families belonging to SC Community:

Hon'ble member, Sri Jogendra Behera proposed for extension of lease in favour of 44 fisherman families belonging to SC community of Baghamara Prawn Culture Tanks under Sonapur GP of Chikiti block of Ganjam district.

The proposal was discussed and it was resolved that the Director, Fisheries would be requested to take necessary action in this regard.

(iv) Violation of ORV Act in giving promotion to the Ayurvedic Doctors:

Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department explained that no irregularities had been committed by Health & Family Welfare Department in upgrading 25 % posts of Ayurvedic Doctors since the provisions of reservation did not apply to such upgradation as per rulings of Hon'ble Apex Court and the High Court of Orissa. In any case, the decision of Government to upgrade 25 % posts of Ayurvedic Doctors was yet to be implemented and another proposal for upgrading all the posts of Ayurvedic Doctors was under consideration.

Item No. 5 :

(i): Appointment of OPSC selected SC & ST candidates in the post of Jr. Assistant in the Secretariat:

Principal Secretary, Home Department explained that the recruitment test for the post of Jr. Assistants in the Secretariat had been held by OPSC in 1997 and the select list prepared was valid for one year. It is, therefore, not possible to appoint candidates from the said list at this stage after the gap of more than 10 years.

(ii) Violation of reservation provisions in appointment of Multi Purpose Assistant (Gram Rojgar Sevaka):

Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Panchayati Raj explained that the appointment of Multi Purpose Assistant (Gram Rojgar Sevaka) was done at the Gram Panchayat level on contractual basis and reservation provisions did not apply in respect of contractual appointment or single post cadre.

Hon'ble members stated that the vast majority of labourers engaged under rural employment schemes were from SCs and STs and it would be appropriate if eligible candidates from these communities were appointed to the post of Multi Purpose Assistant (Gram Rojgar Sevaka). The members also felt that the provisions of reservations were ultimately violated if due representation was not given to the SC and ST candidates in contractual appointments and such appointments are regularized later on.

It was decided that the administrative Department would issue instructions for appointment of Multi Purpose Assistants (Gram Rojgar Sevaka) from SC and ST communities in proportion to their population subject to availability of eligible candidates.

Item No. 6: Inclusion of Manguli/Mungali/Mangli/Mirgan Mungli in the SC list of Orissa:

It was pointed out that Mangali community had been specified as SC in respect of Kalahandi and Koraput districts and Mirgan in respect of Nabarangpur district only in the amended Presidential Order of 2002 vide Sl. No. 94 and 95 respectively. Since these castes were also found in other districts, it was proposed to request Government of India to include them in the SC list of Orissa for the whole State.

The proposal was approved after a detailed discussion.

Item No. 7: Harassment of OPSC in appointment of SC & ST Degree Engineers (Civil) in different Departments of Government.

Hon'ble MLAs, Sri Bira Sipka and Dr. Parameswar Sethi mentioned that the OPSC was rejecting the SC & ST Degree Engineers (Civil) on the ground that they were not securing cut off marks.

It was decided that the OPSC would be advised to conduct special recruitments from amongst the SC & ST Degree Engineers (Civil) in order to fill up the vacant posts of Civil Engineers meant for SC & ST candidates.

Item No. 8: Issuance of Caste Certificate to Siyal/Siala Community.

The Presidential order specifies 'Siyal' as SC in the SC list of Orissa vide Sl. No. 86. Since the word 'Sial' is not written identically in all the land records and is also pronounced as 'Siala', the applicants are facing problems in getting Caste Certificates from the Revenue Officers.

It was decided to recommend Government of India for inclusion of 'Siala/Sial' as synonym of 'Siyal'.

Item No. 9: Violation of provisions of ORV Act/Rules in determining inter se seniority of SC & ST OAS (I)(JB) and (SB) officers.

Special Secretary, GA Deptt. clarified that the ORV Act provided for reservation in case of promotion up to OAS (I)(JB). Thereafter promotion to OAS-I(SB) and above was allowed with reference to the gradation list of OAS – I(JB) prepared by Revenue & DM Deptt. It was also explained that the matter of

inter se seniority between ST & SC OAS officers was locked up in litigation and was sub-judice before the High Court of Orissa. As it was necessary and expedient, to fill up the vacant promotional posts in the public interest, it was considered to give adhoc promotion from OAS-I (SB) to the rank of OAS (S) with reference to the valid gradation list of OAS – I(JB) officers prepared by Revenue & DM Deptt. in 1997. These ad hoc promotions were being made after obtaining leave of the Court and were subject to the final outcome of the OJC cases. Hence, there was no violation of any rule or procedure while allowing promotions to OAS-I (SB) and higher ranks.

He further explained that a draft provisional gradational list was forwarded by Revenue & DM Deptt. in 2006 after 85th amendment to the Constitution. After finalization of the gradation list by Revenue & DM Deptt., further appropriate action would be taken by GA Department.

He also informed that consequent upon the decision made in the last Scheduled Castes Welfare Advisory Board meeting held on 21.07.2007, a high level meeting was taken up on 27.12.2007 under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary to sort out the issues. It was decided therein that GA Deptt. should issue suitable instructions to all Departments of Government to take steps for early disposal of the cases pending in different Courts to facilitate finalization of the gradation list. Accordingly, instruction has been issued to all Departments of Government vide GA Deptt. on 02.02.2008 in this regard.

Some members suggested that further promotion should not be allowed till finalization of the provisional gradation lists. The Development Commissioner-cum-ACS clarified that the process of finalization of the gradation lists consumes a good deal of time for which it is essential on administrative exigencies to act upon the existing gradation lists for allowing promotions.

Hon'ble Finance Minister called for amending the ORV Act to deal with the existing problems, finally. This was approved.

Item No. 10: Payment of cash incentive of Rs.50,000/- for inter caste married couple.

The Principal, Apparel Training Design Centre, Chennai had sent a proposal for consideration of Government to disburse the incentive amount of Rs.50,000/- in 3 instalments at the rate of Rs.10,000/- per annum and keeping remaining amount of Rs.20,000/- as Bank deposit in the name of the first child.

The proposal was discussed and it was decided that existing practice of disbursing incentive allowance in one instalment should be continued.

Item No. 11: Proposal submitted by Fisheries and Animal Resource Dev. Deptt.:

- (i) **Development of inland fishery agriculture through FFDA and enhancement of subsidy from 25 % to 50 %:**
- (ii) **Promotion of silvi-pasture on Gochar land for fodder resources development of small animal:**
- (iii) **Training on Cow keeping:**
- (iv) **Provision of Travis at the village level for Artificial Insemination and First Aid:**
- (v) **Reimbursement of user charges:**
- (vi) **Skill upgradation of poultry farmers:**
- (vii) **Supply of quality Buck to livestock holders for meat production:**

It was decided that the Fisheries and Animal Resource Development Department should take all necessary steps to implement the proposals submitted by them for consideration of Scheduled Castes Welfare Advisory Board in accordance with the guidelines of existing ongoing plans and programmes for which provisions are made under Centrally Sponsored Schemes/Central Plan and State Plan.

Item No. 12: Inclusion of 'Mahara' in the list of Scheduled Caste:

It was resolved that the study/findings of the SCSTRTI would be placed before the SC Welfare Advisory Board to consider the proposal in the next meeting of the Board.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Orissa Scheduled Castes Welfare Advisory Board Meeting held on 23.4.2008.

1. Sri Chaitanya Prasad Majhi, Minister SC & ST Development & M&BCW---Dy.Chairman.
2. Sri Sanatan Bisi, Minister, H & F.W.
3. Sri Mahesh Sahoo, M.L.A., Talcher
4. Sri Bimbadhar Kuanr, M.L.A, Bhatli
5. Dr. Trinath Behera, M.L.A., Gopalpur
6. Smt. Anjali Behera, M.L.A., Hindol
7. Sri Shashibhusan Behera, M.L.A., Balipatna
8. Sri Madhabananda Behera, M.L.A., J.N. Prasad
9. Sri Jogendra Behera, M.L.A., Titilagarh
10. Sri Bira Sipka, M.L.A., Dharmgarh
11. Dr. Parmeswar Sethi, M.L.A., Jajpur
12. Sri Bishnu Das, M.L.A., Jagatsinghpur
13. Sri Tarunakanti Mishra, Principal Secretary, Home Deptt.
14. DR. D.P.Choudhury, Addl. Secretary, Law Deptt.
15. Sri R.N. Dash, Commissioner-Cum-Secy., P.R. Deptt.
16. Sri Arun Kumar Panda, Commissioner-Cum-Secy., H & U. Deptt.
17. Sri T.K. Pandey, Commissioner-Cum-Secy., H & F.W. Deptt.
18. Sri M. Saran, Spl. Secy., G.A. Department.
19. Sri D.P. Mohapatra, Addl. Secretary, Industries Deptt.
20. Sri R.B. Nayak, Commissioner-Cum-Secy., H. E. Department
21. Sri G.V.V. Sarma, Commissioner-Cum-Secy., Revenue & D.M. Deptt.
22. Dr. Taradatt, Commissioner-Cum-Secy., ST & SC Dev. Deptt.
23. Sri Jyoti Prakash Das, Director(OBC)-cum-Addl. Secy., ST & SC Dev. Deptt.
24. Dr. A. B. Ota, Director, SCSTRTI & ATLC
25. Sri G.N. Sethi, Dy. Secretary, ST & SC Dev. Deptt.
26. Sri B.B. Mishra, F.A.-cum-Addl. Secy., Deptt. of W.R. Deptt.
27. Sri B.K. Das, Addl. Secy., F & ARD. Department.

ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SCHEDULED CASTES WELFARE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD ON 21.7.2007.

<u>ACTION POINTS</u>	<u>ACTION TAKEN</u>
<p>1. Item No. 2(a) Clear cut instructions will be issued by Higher Education Deptt. for reservation of 38% seats for SC/ST students in colleges.</p>	<p>The H.E. Deptt./Industries Deptt./ H & FW Deptt. have been requested vide ST & SC Dev. Deptt. Memo No.31327, dt.16.8.2007 to issue clear cut instruction for reservation A series of reminders have been issued but clear cut instructions have not been received from the respective Departments. The H.E. Department have intimated that Govt. approval is awaited.</p>
<p>2. Item No.2(b) Govt. would provide Rs.5.00 crore of Corpus fund to the OSFDC to resume operation in implementation of High cost loan.</p>	<p>Rs. 5.00 crore has been sanctioned and released to OSFDC.</p>
<p>3. Item No.2(f) The Industries, Health and Family. Welfare Deptt. will issue necessary Instruction to reserve 38% seats for Engineering, Medical & Technical Institutions.</p>	<p>The Industries Deptt./H & F.W. Deptt./H.E. Deptt. have been requested vide ST & SC Deptt. Memo No.31327, dt.16.8.2007 and Letters No.36833, 36834, 36835, dated 17.9.2007. Regular reminders Are being issued</p>
<p>4. Item No.3 It was unanimously decided to enhance the Cash award from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.50,000/-to each inter-caste married Couple.</p>	<p>Resolution enhancing the cash grant award to Rs.50,000/- to the inter-caste married couple has already been issued vide ST & SC Dev. Deptt. Resolution No.436, dt.3.12.2007.</p>
<p>5. Item No.5 The Board recommended inclusion of Chik/chik Badaik, Tiar/Tior castes in the SCs list of Orissa. The Nabakrishna Choudhury Centre for Development Studies and the SC&STRTI, Bhubaneswar should conduct a joint study to investigate the status of MAHARA, RADHI, NIARY, GIRGIRA, GIRGIRIA Castes to consider for inclusion in the SC list. SC & STRTI, Bhubaneswar should conduct a joint study to investigate the status of MAHARA, RADHI, NIARY, GIRGIRA, GIRGIRIA Castes to consider for inclusion in the SC list.</p>	<p>The proposal recommending the inclusion of Chik/Chik Badaik & Tiar/Tior has already been sent to G.O.I. vide ST & SC Dev. Deptt L.No.38291 dt.1.10.2007. The Director, SC&STR&TI and Director, NKCCDS, Bhubaneswar have submitted joint study report on these castes. As desired by Hon'ble Members, a copy of the study report is at Annexure-III</p>

<p>6.</p>	<p>Item No.7 Collectors would be instructed to caution the Tahasildars and take action against the persons indulging in making false claims about their castes. In the event of issuing wrong caste certificates deliberately, the Authorities along with beneficiaries should be taken into task..</p>	<p>Instructions have been issued to all Collectors vide ST & SC Dev. Deptt Memo No.31327, dt.16.8.07 and L.No.38408, dt.4.10.2007 to issue necessary instruction to the Tahasildars & authorities involved in it and submit a copy of the instruction so issued by them. All other Collectors have been reminded again to take necessary action.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Item No.9 After obtaining views of Law Deptt. & ST & Sc Dev. Deptt. in the matter of Preparation of gradation list of OAS-I (Sr.Br.) & OFS SC & ST Officers, if necessary, the gradation Lists would be corrected according to the 85th amendment of the Constitution of India.</p>	<p>The Draft provisional Gradation list in respect of OAS-I(J.B.) officers prepared in 2006 by the Revenue & Excise Deptt. pursuant to G.A.Deptt. Resolution No.10237/Gen. dt.20.3.2002 has not yet been published & finalized being locked up in litigation. It has been decided in a meeting taken by Chief Secretary on 27.12.2007 that the G.A. Deptt. Would issue suitable instructions to all Departments of Govt. to take steps for early disposal of cases pending in different courts relating to finalization of gradation lists, where there is no prohibitory order, steps should be taken to finalize the gradation list in pursuance of the existing acts, rules & resolutions. The G.A.Deptt. vide their letter No.29855, dt.28.11.2007 have intimated that the revision of gradation list of OAS-I(Sr.Br.) Officers will be taken up after the gradation list of OAS-I(JB) officers is revised/finalized by the Revenue & D.M.Deptt. in view of the fact that the implication of Judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in M.Nagraj case on validity of 85th Amendment of the Constitution of India is under examination by the concerned Deptt. The gradation list of OAS & OFS officers have not been finalized so far. Revenue & D.M. Deptt. have stated that they are awaiting the decision of G.A.Deptt./ST & SC Dev. Deptt.</p>

8. **Item No.10**
RDC(CD), Cuttack was advised to examine the violation of seniority in the matter of promotion of SC/ST Officers in the cadre of the Section Officer-Level-II during the year 2006 and regularize the matter.

Item No.10(1)

9. BDA will not allow deviation from the Reservation provisions in future under any situation and rectify the past mistakes regarding violation of ORV Act in matters of promotion of SC/ST Officers in the cadre of Section Officer, Level-II and Senior Assistants.

Item No.10(2)

10. The Board of Revenue Orissa, Cuttack would examine whether provisions Of ORV Act have been followed in giving promotional to the post of Sr. Assistants and Section Officers and whether the seniority of SC & ST Candidates as per the gradation list have been recognized/ignored on the o/o the Board of Revenue, Orissa, Cuttack and regularize the matter.

Item No.13

11. The proposal regarding inclusion of Mangali & Mirgan community in the SC list of Orissa would be discussed in the next meeting of the SC Welfare Board. In the meantime the SC&STR&TI may investigate the status of these castes.

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Necessary instructions have been issued to the RDC(CD), Cuttack accordingly.

The RDC(CD), Cuttack has intimated that no irregularity has been done and no illegal action taken by the O/O the RDC (CD), Cuttack while giving promotion to the post of Section Officer-Level-II. As such question of regularizing the matter dose not arise.

Sr. Establishment officer, office of the BDA, Bhubaneswar has intimated that steps have been taken to fill up available promotional posts coming under reserved category to clear the backlog of ORV Act.

Necessary instructions to the Board of Revenue have been issued for appropriate action.

The SC & STR&TI has already submitted the status report of Mangali & Mirgan communities Both communities have already been included in the SC list of Orissa vide the Constitution(SC)Amendment order Act 2002 for the District of Kalahandi/Koraput & Nowrangpur respectively. Proposal for withdrawal of area restriction has been included in the agenda notes for the present Meeting for discussion.

Minutes of the Joint Meeting between Representatives of SCSTRTI & NKCDS on Dt.03.11.07 regarding Ethnic Status of (1) RADHI / NIARI / NIARY, (2) GIRIGIRIA / GIRIGIRA / GINGIRA and (3) MAHARA, for their inclusion in the SC List of Orissa in pursuance of the decision taken in the SC Welfare Advisory Board Meeting held on Dt.21.07.2007

Members Present:

1. Dr. A.B. Ota, Director, SCSTRTI
2. Prof. S.P. Padhi, Director, NKCDS
3. Ms. F. Bara, Joint Director, SCSTRTI
4. Shri S.C. Mohanty, Research Officer, SCSTRTI
5. Dr. R.P. Mohanty, Research Investigator, NKCDS

Minutes

The facts and findings of SCSTRTI & NKCDS on the Ethnic Status of (1) RADHI / NIARI / NIARY, (2) GIRIGIRIA / GIRIGIRA / GINGIRA, and (3) MAHARA, were discussed at length and the consensus emerged as follows:

(A) RADHI / NIARI / NIARY and GIRIGIRIA / GIRIGIRA / GINGIRA

The important findings and concluding remarks of NKCDS are as follows:

1. Radhi / Niari / Niary and Girigiria / Girigira / Gingira are considered as *Savarna* in the traditional Hindu social order. They are lower *Shudra* and treated as *Jala Achala* or *Pani Achhuan* castes.
2. Radhi / Niari / Niary have the traditional occupational specialisation in preparation or flattened rice (*chuda*), parched/ puffed rice (*mudhi*), puffed paddy (*lia*) that are consumed by the higher castes of *varna* order. Nowadays they get the services of ritual castes, like lower grade Brahman, called as either *Tuthia* or *Ghatikia* Braman, barber and washer-man. They are therefore not considered as untouchables. Considering the above facts and also other criteria as mentioned in the main report, NKCDS had recommended not to include these castes in the SC List of Orissa.
3. Even though Girigiria / Girigira / Gingira are lower *Shudra*, and nowadays they manage to get the services from the lower grade Brahman and other service castes, they have a lower social status as compared to Radhi / Niari / Niary and the higher castes keep social distance from them because of their unclean and indigenous caste occupations, unclean food habit, specialisation in preparation of indigenous medicines from the eggs of tortoise and bile-ducts of different fishes, use of scales of tortoise as floating objects in their fishing nets, use of earthworm, flying ants etc for catching fishes etc as mentioned in the main report etc.
4. However, both Radhi / Niari / Niary as well as Girigiria / Girigira / Gingira appear to be different sub-castes of the notified community Keuta / Kaibarta and as such they maintain marital alliance with the Keuta / Kaibarta.

162 - Thus, considering the above facts the following conclusions are arrived at by NCDS.

- i. That only by considering the facts that Radhi / Niari / Niary is a sub-caste of the notified caste Keuta / Kaibarta / Dhibara, etc and they maintain marital alliance with them, the case of Radhi / Niari / Niary could be considered for inclusion at Sl. No. 24 in the SC list of Orissa as a different sub-caste of the notified community Dewar/ Dhibara / Keuta/ Kaibarta, if, however, these two criteria are considered sufficient for inclusion of this group in appropriate place in the SC list of Orissa.
- ii. That only by considering the facts that the Girigiria/Girigira/Gingira is a sub-caste of the notified community Keuta/ Kiabarta /Dhibara etc, they maintain marital alliance with them and as because of the fact mentioned at Sl. No.3 above, the case of Gigiria /Girigira /Gingira could be considered for conclusion at Sl. No. 24 in the SC List of Orissa, if however, these three criteria are considered sufficient for inclusion of this group in appropriate place in the SC list of Orissa.

The important findings and the concluding remarks of SCSTRTI are as follows:

1. According to the available references the Keuta / Kaibarta in Orissa represent a generic name encompassing more than half a dozen endogamous sections. But broadly the community is divided into two divisions on the basis of their occupational specializations. One group is traditionally dependent on boating and fishing while the other, on preparation of flattened rice (*chudakuta*), parched rice (*mudhibhaja*) and puffed rice (*nia* or *lia bhaja*). The former is mostly called Keuta, Kaibarta, Dhibara, Nauri, Siuli, Machua etc. and the latter, as Radhi / Niary in north eastern Orissa (Baleswar, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar), Chudakuta Keuta or Keuta in coastal districts (Cuttack, Puri, Kendrapada, Jagatsingpur) and Chudutia/Liary in southern districts (Ganjam) of Orissa. All sections are broadly referred under the generic name Keuta / Kaibarta.
2. Radhi / Niary appear to be a section of the notified community Keuta / Kaibarta with the traditional occupational specialization in preparation of flattened rice (*chuda*) and parched rice (*mudhi*). As such they seem to be equivalent to the Chudakuta Keuta found elsewhere in the State. Radhi / Niary who live by seaside or riverside also take up fishing like the Machhua Keuta. They share many common socio-cultural traits with the Keuta / Kaibarta and have marital alliances with the Keuta. Treated at par with the Keuta / Kaibarta, they are socially ranked low and still face social discrimination in various forms. Traditionally the Brahman priests of higher grade do not serve the Radhi / Niary. However the well-to-do families in these days are availing the services of Brahman priests of inferior grade called Ghatikia Brahman. They get the services of barber and washerman. As the things stand now in the study area the Radhi / Niari like the Keuta are, more or less, a *jal achal* caste but, Radhi / Niary are not treated as physically untouchables.

3. Girigiria / Gingira / Girigira, a numerically small and little known community of Orissa, are said to be one of the endogamous sections of the Keuta / Kaibarta community. Their traditional occupation is fishing, boating and preparation and sale of dry fish, parched rice and puffed rice that is more or less the same as that of Keuta / Kaibarta. They enjoy a low social status in the caste hierarchy that is more or less equal to that of the Keuta / Kaibarta community, but in certain areas they are treated as inferior to Keuta / Kaibarta. They are not treated as physically untouchables but the upper caste Hindus maintain a fair degree of social distance from them. In the past they were not getting the services of Brahman, Barik and Dhoba, but now a days in certain areas they are availing the services of Brahman of inferior section. The services of these Brahmans are not utilized by the upper caste Hindus. In other areas the Brahman serve them observing certain restrictions. But in all areas they get the services of Dhoba and Barik.

Thus, considering the above facts the following conclusions are arrived at by SCSTRTI.

- i. Since RADHI / NIARI / NIARY constitute a section of the notified community KEUTA / KAIBARTA, have marital alliances with the Keuta and enjoy similar status and position in the social hierarchy, Government may take a decision in the matter of their inclusion at Sl. 24 in the SC list of Orissa as a section/synonym of the notified community DEWAR, DHIBARA, KEUTA, KAIBARTA.
- ii. Since Girigiria / Girigira / Gingira constitute one of the endogamous sections of the notified community Keuta / Kaibarta, have more or less, the same traditional occupation of fishing, boating, preparation and sale of dry fish, parched rice and puffed rice and also the same social status as that of Keuta / Kaibarta, Govt. may take a decision in the matter of inclusion of Girigiria / Girigira / Gingira either with Keuta , Kaibarta at Sl.24 or as a new entry in the SC list of Orissa.

CONCLUSION

Taking the above cited findings and conclusions of both the Institutions into consideration Govt. may take a final decision in the matter inclusion of both the communities in the SC list of Orissa.


(B) MAHARA

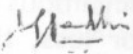
The studies conducted by SCSTRTI and NKCDs were done in different localities of Kalahandi and Nuapada districts and the study findings of both these Institutions commonly reveal that the MAHARA have migrated from Maharashtra. As immigrants their social status depends on the level of acceptance of the local traditional host community. These might be the reasons for which the social status of this community and particularly the matter of 'stigma of untouchability' differs from area to area.

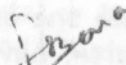
Both the Institutions commonly agree on the point that MAHARA/ MOHARA / MOHRA seem to be synonymous with the notified community MEHRA.

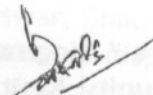
Difference lies only in conclusions made by both these Institutions. According to the study of NKCDs the community suffers from the stigma of untouchability and also since MAHARA / MOHARA / MOHRA are synonymous with the notified community MEHRA, all these terms be included along with MEHRA in appropriate place in the SC list of Orissa. In the study of SCSTRTI it has been concluded that "Since this community does not apparently suffer from the stigma of untouchability at present, the question of continuing MEHRA in the SC list may be reconsidered. If, in case its SC status is retained, then the synonyms viz. MAHARA / MOHARA / MOHRA need to be included as such in the list". This is self-explanatory. However, the respective findings regarding untouchability of the two studies are not reconcilable.


Hence it is upon the Govt. to take a final decision whether to continue MEHRA in the SC list and add the terms, like MAHARA, MOHARA/MOHRA as synonyms of MEHRA or exclude the main caste MEHRA from the concerned list.


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