



**Government of India
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes**

6th Floor, 'B' Wing, Lok Nayak Bhawan,
Khan Market, New Delhi

Dated 18/04/2013

File No. 17/8/Inclusion/2013/RU-III

To

1. Dr. Rameshwar Oraon, Chairperson
2. Smt. K. Kamala Kumari, Member
3. Shri Bheru Lal Meena, Member

Subject: Inclusion of 'Binjhiya' community in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Chhattisgarh State.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to enclose a copy of the letter No. 12026/10/2005-C&LM-I dated 21/03/2013 received from the Director, Govt. of India Ministry Tribal Affairs Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi addressed to the Commission the subject mentioned above.

It is requested that comments/suggestions on the Inclusion of 'Binjhiya' community may kindly be sent for discussion in the forthcoming meeting of the Commission.

Yours faithfully,


(S.P. Meena)
Assistant Director

Copy for information and necessary action to;

1. PPS to Joint Secretary.
2. Director (RU-I & RU-II)
3. Deputy Director (RU-III & RU-IV)
4. Deputy Secretary (Admn.)
5. Consultant (RCD)
6. AD (Coord.)
7. SSA NIC


(S.P. Meena)
Assistant Director

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated: 21.3.2013

To

The Joint Secretary,
(Shri Aditya Mishra),
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes,
6th Floor, Lok Nayak Bhawan,
Khan Market,
New Delhi -110003

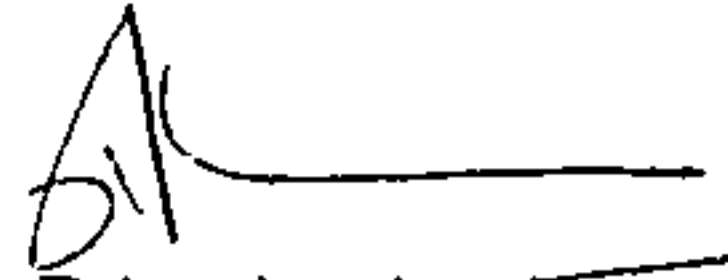
Subject: Inclusion of 'Binjhiya' community in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Chhattisgarh State.

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of the D.O. letter No. 8/1/2005-SS (Chhattisgarh) dated 19.3.2013 received from the office of the Registrar General of India on the above subject.

2. In this connection, the recommendations of the State Government of Chhattisgarh alongwith the ethnographic details on 'Binjhiya' community are also enclosed for your kind perusal. It is requested that the views on the matter may kindly be furnished to this Ministry at an early date.

Yours faithfully,


(Namita Priyadarshini)
Director
Telefax No.:23073176

Enclosure: As stated above.

Recd. today
PPS
1/4/13

DID
9
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on file

ADCC (ell) / RUII
For note

2/4/2013



भारत के महारजिस्ट्रार एवं जनगणना आयुक्त
गृह मंत्रालय
भारत सरकार

डॉ० च० चन्द्रमौलि
Dr. C. CHANDRAMOULI

Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India
Ministry of Home Affairs
Government of India

D.O.No.8/1/2005-SS(Chhattisgarh)

19th March, 2013

Dear Shri Dubey,

Please refer to your office letter No.12026/10/2005-C&LM dated 18th November, 2011 regarding inclusion of Binjhia community in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Chhattisgarh State.

2. The said proposal has been examined as per the approved modalities, 2002, taking into account available standard published ethnographic literature. Based on the available published information and other material this office agrees with the proposal of the State Government. The details are sent herewith as per Annexure.

3. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is requested to take action as deemed appropriate.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(C. Chandramouli)

Encl. as above.

Shri A.K. Dubey
Joint Secretary
Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Shastri Bhawan
New Delhi.

Dr. No. 2457 (Chhattisgarh)
Dated: 21/03/2013

2457/Dir (C&LM)
21/03/13

~~Dir (C&LM)~~
It may kindly
update & put up.
21/3



Page No. 1

Comments of ORGI on the Chhattisgarh State Government's proposal for inclusion of Binjhia community in the Scheduled Tribes list.

In the year 2004 this office had examined the proposal for inclusion of Binjhia community in the STs list as synonym of Binjhar notified as ST at entry no. 11 in the STs list. On the basis of available published ethnographic literatures this office vide its D.O.No. 8/1/2005-SS (Chhattisgarh) dated 14.12.2005 conveyed that *'the information indicate that Binjhia are now separated from Binjhar and maintaining an independent ethnic entity. Both Binjhia and Binjhar are Scheduled Tribes in some of the states of India. In Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa they are notified by the term Binjhia and in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra they are notified by the term Binjhar. But in no state both the terms are notified simultaneously as sub entry of the other'*. Since both Binjhia and Binjhar are endogamous group having distinct entity, this office did not support the proposal for inclusion of Binjhia as synonym of Binjhar in the STs list of Chhattisgarh.

2. In compliance to above comments of this office the State Government has now recommended for the inclusion of Binjhia in the STs list as an independent entry. An ethnographic report based on the field study conducted by the Tribal Research & Training Institute Raipur in five districts namely Raipur, Janjgir-Chanpa, Surguja, Korba and Korba has been furnished in support of the present proposal.

Justification given in the Ethnographic Report:

The Study Report states that Binjhias are mainly concentrated in Scheduled areas of Raipur, Janjgir-Chanpa, Surguja, Korba and Korba districts of Chhattisgarh State with the other STs of the state namely Binjhar, Gond, Agariya, Oraon and Kanwar etc. They speak Chhattisgarhi, Surguja and Sadri languages. The traditional occupation of Binjhia has been cultivation, agriculture labour besides collection of forest produce, fishing and rearing of cattle.

2. The Binjhias have totemistic exogamous clan system. Many of their clan are named after plants and animals and member of septs refrain from killing or destroying the animals or plants after which it is named. The name of the septs are generally Chhattisgarhi words e.g. Gourchiya (honey bee), Bageria (tiger), Bhandil (ox), Kunwar(bird) though a few are in Gondi which are exogamous in nature. The community worship soul, spirits and natural objects. They have their own pantheon and folk deities. They have their community priest who officiates in various socio religious rituals.

3. Like many other tribal communities, the custom of bride price is prevalent among Binjhias. They have their own folk dances and songs for fair, festivals and life cycle rituals.

4. The Report further mentions that the caste name Binjhia has been written in the Revenue and Government records. But the said community even being one of the divisions of Binjhwar a ST in Chhattisgarh are deprived of the constitutional safeguards which they availed as ST prior to verdict of the Hon'ble Court in 2001 (page: 103). The said Judgement (AIR 2001 SC 103) of the Hon'ble Supreme Court regarding Order issued under Article 342 of the Constitution reads as '*The Scheduled Tribes Order must be interpreted so that it is not even permissible to say that a tribe, sub-tribe, part of or group of a tribe or tribal community is synonymous to the one mentioned in the Scheduled Tribes Order if they are not so specifically mentioned in it*'. The Notification issued, in the Provision (1) of the Article 342 specifically mentions that there is no right to State Govt., Court or Tribunals or any other Authority to change, modification, or correction in the list of STs.

Comments of ORGI:

Earlier Census Report (*Census of India, 1911, Vol.X, Central Provinces and Berar Pt-I, Report, P.221*) states that 'the Binjhias are offshoot of the Binjhwar. All of these now sometimes regard themselves as separate castes'. The Binjia or Binjhia has been classified under Binjhwar by Shoobert, W.H. (*Census of India, 1931, Central Provinces & Berar, Pt-I Report, page; 375*). Nelson, A.E (in the *Central Provinces District Gazetteers, Vol. A. Raipur; 1909, P. 107*) has written that in Raipur Binjhwars have four subdivisions, the Binjhwar proper, the Sonjharas or Gold washers, the Birjhias and the Binjhias. The ethnographic volume *The Tribes and Castes of the Central Provinces of India, Vol.II, 1975 rpt.page;331* has also described Binjhia as one of the said four subdivisions of Binjhwar tribe. Contemporary ethnographic information indicate that now Binjhwars have two endogamous divisions, namely, Binjhwar proper and Sonvaha Binjhwar (K.S. Singh, 1998, *India's Communities*, PP. 498- 500). Singh, in his report, has treated 'Binjiya' as a separate entity and stated them as an endogamous group.

2. The enclosed Ethnographic Report suggests that like their neighbouring tribal communities Binjhias have distinct and specific culture in their entire socio religious and economic organisation. They are foragers who collect forest produces, trap small games besides working as agriculture labour and cultivators. Prevalence of an elaborate totemistic clan system, custom of bride price during marriage, worship of spirits, soul and animistic form of religion are the tribal characteristics which place Binjhias akin to the STs of the State.

3. The above information given in the published dependable ethnographic volumes convey that Binjhia/Binjias is one of the divisions of Binjhwar already notified as ST in Chhattisgarh. Binjhias is a separate distinct endogamous entity. Being one of the divisions of Binjhwar, they also possess specific and distinct tribal traits. Binjhia is a Scheduled Tribe in the neighbouring states of Jharkhand, Bihar and Odisha. In 2005 this office although did not agree for the inclusion of Binjhia as a synonym/ sub entry of Binjhwar in the STs list of Chhattisgarh but accepted Binjhia as an endogamous tribe distinct from Binjhwar. Binjhia fulfils the requisite criteria laid down for identification of community as a Scheduled Tribe.

In view of the above this office supports the Chhattisgarh State Government's proposal for inclusion of Binjhia community as an independent entry in the list of Scheduled Tribes of the State.
