

Documents obtained by **Centre for Koch Rajbanshi Studies and Development**, CKRSD through RTI (Right to Information) from **National Commission for Schedule Tribe** and **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** for Granting **ST status** to Six Communities (Tai Ahom, Koch-Rajbongshi, Moran, Mottock, Chutia and Adivasi (Tea) Tribes)



Centre for Koch Rajbanshi Studies and Development
Guwahati-28

August 4, 2020

F.No.12026/2/2003-C&LM
Government of India
Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Annexure-IV(c)



No. Cabinet Note/01/MTA/2018/RU-II
Government of India
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

6th floor, LokNayak Bhawan,
Khan Market, New Delhi
Dated:- 07.01.2019.

To

Shyla Titus,
Director (C&LM),
Ministry of Tribal Affairs,
August Kranti Bhawan,
Bhikaji Cama Place,
New Delhi - 110066.

Subject:-Granting of Scheduled Tribes status to six communities namely, Koch Rajbongshi, Chutiya, Moran, Matak, Tai Ahom and Tea Tribes of Assam

Madam,

I am directed to refer to Ministry of Tribal Affairs' letter No.12016/2/03-C&LM-1 dated 05.01.2019 on the above mentioned subject and to say that aforesaid issue was discussed under agenda Item no. 01 in the 110th meeting of the NCST held on 07.01.2019 at 11.00 A.M. under the chairmanship of Miss Anusuiya Uikey, Vice Chairperson, NCST. The Commission has decided to support the proposal mentioned in the Draft Note for the Cabinet. An extract of relevant portion of the minutes of the meeting of the Commission is enclosed.

2. It is requested that action taken/proposed to be taken in the matter may please be communicated to the commission at the earliest.

Yours faithfully,

Encl:-As above


(S.P. Meena)
Assistant Director
Tel:24645826

Copy for information:

1. PS to Chairperson, NCST, New Delhi.
2. Asstt. Director (Co-ord), NCST, New Delhi.

Copy to :-

1. SAS (NIC) for uploading on the Commission's website.

US(C&LM) 8.7
7.1.19

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Government of India
Ministry of Tribal Affairs



No.1/01/2019-Coord.
Government of India
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

6th Floor, 'B' Wing, Lok Nayak Bhawan,
Khan Market, New Delhi -110003
Dated: 07th January, 2019

To

1. Shri Nand Kumar Sai, Hon'ble Chairperson
2. Miss Anusuiya Uikey, Hon'ble Vice-Chairperson
3. Shri Hari Krishna Damor, Hon'ble Member
4. Shri Harshadbhai Chunilal Vasava, Hon'ble Member
5. Smt. Maya Chintamn Ivate, Hon'ble Member

Subject: Summary Record of discussions of 110th Meeting of National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) held on 07.01.2019 at 11:00 A.M.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to the above subject and to say that 110th meeting of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes was held on 07.01.2019 at 11:00 A.M in the Conference Room of NCST at Lok Nayak Bhawan, New Delhi. The Meeting was presided over by Miss Anusuiya Uikey, Hon'ble Vice-Chairperson, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes. A copy of the Summary Record of discussions of meeting is enclosed for information and record.

Yours faithfully,

(S.P. Meena)
Assistant Director

Copy for necessary action, a copy of the Summary Record of discussions of 110th meeting of NCST is enclosed. The action taken report in the matter may be intimated to Coord. Section by 22.01.2019.

- (i) Director (RU-II & III)
- (ii) Deputy Secretary (RU-I & IV)
- (iii) Under Secretary (Estt.)
- (iv) Assistant Director (RU-II & Coordination)
- (iii) Assistant Director (RU-I & OL)
- (iv) Assistant Director (Admin)
- (v) Research Officer (RU-IV)

Copy for information:

1. Sr.PPS to Secretary, NCST
2. PA to Joint Secretary, NCST
3. Secretary, MoTA, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. Director/Assistant Director/Research Officer in Regional Office of NCST at Bhopal/Bhubaneshwar/Jaipur/ Raipur/ Ranchi/Shillong
5. NIC, NCST for uploading on the website.

राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग (एन.सी.एस.टी) की 110 वीं बैठक में हुई चर्चा का कार्यवृत्त

(फाईल सं. 1/13/2018-समन्वय)

समय : 11.00 बजे

दिनांक : 07.01.2019

स्थान : सम्मलेन कक्ष, राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग, छठा तल, लोकनायक भवन, नई दिल्ली-110003.

अध्यक्षता : सुश्री अनुसुईया उइके, उपाध्यक्ष।

प्रतिभागियों की सूची :

1. श्री हरिकृष्ण डामोर, सदस्य
2. श्रीमती माया चिंतामण इवनाते माननीय सदस्या
3. श्री अशोक कुनार सिंह, सचिव
4. श्री एस.के. रथ, संयुक्त सचिव
5. डा. ललित लह्या, निदेशक
6. श्री पी.टी. जेम्सकुट्टी, उप सचिव
7. श्री डी. एस. कुमारे, अवर सचिव
8. श्री एस.पी. मीना, सहायक निदेशक
9. श्री आर.के. दुबे, सहायक निदेशक
10. श्री राजेश्वर कुमार, सहायक निदेशक
11. श्री वाइ. के. बंसल, अनुसंधान अधिकारी
12. श्री आर. एस. मिश्रा, वरिष्ठ अन्वेषक

बैठक के लिए निर्धारित कार्य सूची मर्दों पर चर्चा की गई और निम्नलिखित निर्णय लिए गए :

F.No.12026/2/2003-C&LM

Government of India
Ministry of Tribal Affairs



National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग

(Minutes of the 110th Meeting held on 7.1.2019)

आयोग की दिनांक 7 जनवरी 2019 को हुई 110वी बैठक का कार्यवृत्त

Agenda Item No.1	Granting of Scheduled Tribe status to six communities namely Koch Rajbongshi, Moran, Matak, Tai Ahom and Tea Tribes of Assam.
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(F.No.Cabinet Note/01/MTA/2019/RU.II)

An emergent meeting of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) was held on 7th January, 2018, to discuss the proposal for granting of Scheduled Tribe status to six communities namely Koch Rajbongshi, Chutiya, Moran, Matak, Tai Ahom and Tea Tribes of Assam forwarded by Ministry of Tribal Affairs vide their letter No.12026/02/2003-C&LM dated 5th January, 2019.

2. The Commission have perused the recommendation of the Office of Registrar General of India (RGI) forwarded vide their Office Memorandum No.8/1/2019-SS(Assam) dated 5th January, 2019. Highlights of the RGI observations are as follows:

- (i) The proposal for inclusion of above six communities of Assam in the list of STs was last examined by RGI in 2006. Thereafter, fresh ethnographic Report on each of the proposed communities were received in the year 2014. Thereafter, the Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs constituted a Committee on 29th February, 2016 under the Chairmanship of Special Secretary (Internal Security), MHA to suggest the modalities for granting of ST status to the said six communities of Assam. The Committee in its Report has recommended that the Government may consider granting in principle approval of ST status to the above six communities. The RGI suggested to Ministry of Tribal Affairs to prepare a Cabinet Note for grant of ST status to the six communities.

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- (ii) Further, the proposal of the Assam Government forwarded by Ministry of Tribal Affairs, has been examined by RGI on the basis of additional Ethnographic information on each of the six communities provided by the State Government and recommendation of the Committee under the Chairmanship of Special Secretary (Internal Security), MHA, as well as the published information given in the earlier Census Reports. The published information substantiate that the above six communities have tribal origin and still they possess tribal characteristics. The RGI has supported the proposal for inclusion of six communities in the STs of Assam.

3. The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes has also perused and took note of the under-mentioned Reports in support of the proposal for inclusion of communities in the list of STs of Assam:

- (i) Ethnological Status of Santals of Assam submitted to the Government of Assam by DSr. S.B. Pande and others.
- (ii) Report of Ethnographic Study of Matak Community prepared by Assam Institute of Research for Tribes and Scheduled Castes.
- (iii) The Report of the Expert Committee constituted by the Government of Assam on scheduling of Tai Ahom.
- (iv) O.M. No.9/3/2011-T (Pt.I) dated 4th January, 2019 of Ministry of Home Affairs, on the implementation of decisions of Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) for fulfilment of various measures envisaged in the Memorandum of Settlement 2003 and other measures related to Bodo community in Assam, which specifically mentions the following:

"4. The State Government of Assam is also requested to undertake necessary action to:

- (a) Determine quantum of reservation for the six communities in the State;*
- (b) Suggest revised quantum of reservation for OBCs in Assam.*
- (c) Suggest measures for safeguarding the interests of existing tribes in the State of Assam after holding consultation with stakeholders."*

- (v) Report dated 28.12.2018 of the Committee under the Chairmanship of Special Secretary (Internal Security), Ministry of Tribal Affairs for

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granting of ST status to 6 communities namely Koch Rajbongshi, Chutiya, Moran, Matak, Tai Ahom and Tea Tribes of Assam.

6. After careful consideration, the NCST concludes that the above six communities possess characteristics of Scheduled Tribes and qualify to be included in the list of STs of Assam. Accordingly, the Commission supports the proposal of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs forwarded vide letter No.12026/02/2003-C&LM dated 5th January, 2018.

(गहन विचार के बाद आयोग इस निष्कर्ष पर पहुंचा है कि उपरोक्त छः समुदाय आदिवासी विशेषताएं रखते हैं और असम की अनुसूचित जनजाति की सूची में शामिल होने के लिए पात्र हैं। तदनुसार, आयोग जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय द्वारा उनके पत्र संख्या 12026/02/2003-सीएण्डएलएम दिनांक 5 जनवरी 2019 के तहत भेजे गए प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करता है।)

(Hari Krishna Damor)
Member

National Commission for STs
सदस्य / Member
राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
भारत सरकार / Govt. of India
नई दिल्ली / New Delhi

(Mrs. Maya Chintamn Ivnate)
Member

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

श्रीमती माया चिन्तामन इवनाते
Smt. Maya Chintamn Ivnate
सदस्य / Member
राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
भारत सरकार / Govt. of India
नई दिल्ली / New Delhi

(Ms. Anusuiya Uikey)
Vice Chairperson

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

शुद्धी अनुसुईया उइके / Miss Anusuiya Uikey
उपाध्यक्ष / Vice Chairperson
राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
भारत सरकार / Govt. of India
नई दिल्ली / New Delhi

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Annexure-IV(b)



File no. 8/1/2019-SS (Assam)
Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs
OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, INDIA
Social Studies Division,
North Wing, First Floor, Sewa Bhawan, New Delhi-110 066

Dated: 05.01.2019

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Implementation of decisions of Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) for fulfillment of various measures envisaged in the Memorandum of Settlement 2003 and other measures related to Bodo community in Assam-regarding.

This is with reference to your office letter No. 12016/2/2003-C&LM dated 4. Memorandum no 9/3/2011-T (Pt.-I) dated 04.01.2019 seeking comments of ORGI on the proposal for inclusion of six communities namely Koch Rajbongshi, Chutiya, Moran, Matak, Tai Ahom and Tea Tribes in the Scheduled Tribes List of Assam. Undersigned is directed to provide following comments of the RGI on the said Proposal.

2. The proposal for inclusion of above stated six communities was last examined in 2006. Thereafter, fresh ethnographic Report on each of the proposed communities were received in the year 2014. Thereafter, Government of India (Ministry of Home Affairs) constituted a Committee on 29. 2. 2016 to under the Chairmanship of Special Secretary (Internal Security), MHA to suggest the modalities for granting of Scheduled Tribe status to the said six communities of Assam. The Committee in its Report has recommended that the Government may consider granting in- principle approval of ST status to above stated six communities. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs may, thereafter prepare a Cabinet Note for grant of ST status to the six communities.

3. The Assam Government proposal forwarded by the MoTA has been examined on the basis of additional Ethnographic information on each of six communities provided by the State Government and recommendation of the Committee under the Chairmanship of Special Secretary (IS), MHA as well as the published information given in the earlier Census Reports. The published information substantiate that the above six communities have tribal origin and still they possess tribal characteristics. The ORGI supports the proposal for inclusion of above six communities in the STs list of Assam. The comments of ORGI are annexed below.

Pratibha Kumari
(Pratibha Kumari)

Deputy Registrar General (Social Studies)

Ms. Shyla Titus
Director (C&LM-I)
Ministry of Tribal Affairs
August Kranti Bhawan,
Bhiakji Cama Place,
New Delhi 110066.

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Annexure

Comments of ORGI on the Assam Government proposal for granting Scheduled Tribe status to six communities namely Koch Rajbongshi, Chutiya, Moran, Matak, Tai Ahom and Tea Tribes in the State

The proposal for inclusion of above stated six communities was last examined in the year 2006. Thereafter, fresh Ethnographic Report on each of the proposed communities was forwarded to ORGI in the year 2014. Further, Government of India (Ministry of Home Affairs) constituted a Committee on 29. 2. 2016 under the Chairmanship of Special Secretary (Internal Security), MHA to suggest the modalities for granting of Scheduled Tribe status to the said six communities of Assam. The Committee in its Report has recommended that the Government may consider granting in- principle approval of ST status to above stated six communities. The Comments of ORGI on each of the six communities based on the State Government Reports and the published information given in the earlier Census Reports are here under:

A. Koch Rajbongshi :

According to the Ethnographic Report 'Koch' and 'Rajbongshi' are two different terms who were intermingled with the course of time to denote a single community name called as 'Koch Rajbongshi'. The terminology 'Koch' has links with the term 'Kachari', a listed ST in the State of Assam whereas the term 'Rajbongshi' defines royal lineage which has been adopted by Koches to enhance their social status in the local socio-cultural matrix. They are spread in the districts of Goalpara, Dhubri, Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon, and Kamrup. The Ethnographic Report has also mentioned that Koches are a part of the vast Bodo group and have close ties with Kachari, Garo, Hajong, Lalung communities, all are STs in the Assam State.

(ii) E.T. Dalton in his book *Tribal History of Eastern India* (1872, rpt. 1978, pp. 89- 94) has stated that for Koches the supreme deities are 'Rishi' and 'Jago'. Every year during rainy season, a grand sacrifice is made to these deities along with the sacrifices to the sun, moon, stars, and to the Gods of hills, woods and rivers by the whole tribe. The collect of first crops is offered to the ancestors by calling their names. This shows the animistic characteristic of the belief system of tribal people exclusively. Sir W.W. Hunter (*A Statistical Account of Assam*, 1879, rpt. 1975, Vol. I, pp. 29-30) has mentioned Koch among the Semi-Hinduized aborigines of Assam.

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(iii) Sir H. H. Risley in his book *Tribes and Castes of Bengal* (1891, rpt. 1981, vol. I, pp. 491- 500) has stated that, the marriages among the Koches were arranged by the professional match-makers, who also negotiate about the amount bride- price to be paid by the bridegroom's father. He further illustrates that, though Kochh or Rajbansi have shown their adhesion to the Hinduism but they practice their own customs as regards to the burial, food and marriage. According to the *People of India* (National Series, 1994; K. S. Singh (ed.); vol. III, pp. 541- 543), the system of paying bride -price (*bow pon*) and dowry (*jamai pon*) is a trend in this community.

(iv) Sir W.W. Hunter in the aforesaid volume states that people from Koch community living near the borders of Garo Hills speak a distinct language of their own, and have their own customs and rituals which is very much similar to Garo community. According to the above volume of *People of India*, Koch speaks a distinct language which belongs to the Bodo group of the Tibeto-Burmese family of languages. Koch language is influenced by both Assamese and Bengali languages and they use the Assamese script. Sir Grierson (*Linguistic Survey of India*, Vol. III, Part-II, p. 95) states that Koch is in fact a Hinduized Bodo tribe who has abandoned their ancestral religion and language and gradually adopted Assamese language in their day to day life.

(v) In West Bengal and Tripura Koch is listed as Scheduled Caste indicating their downtrodden position in the society, whereas in Meghalaya (Hill area) they are notified as Scheduled Tribe suggesting their tribal characteristics. Here, it is to be mentioned that Meghalaya was a part of erstwhile larger Assam once and it was carved out from it in the year 1972. Koch Rajbongshi has traits akin to Garo tribe and a vast Bodo group as mentioned in the published ethnographic volumes and Ethnographic Reports. They exhibit tribal characteristics like presence of core culture, distinct language, animistic beliefs, and have distinct arts and crafts.

B. Tai Ahom Community:

The Ethnographic Report sent by the State government has clearly demarcated the tribal features found in the Tai Ahom community. They belong to the Tai ethnic group, who descended to the Brahmaputra valley in the early 19th century. They have their own distinct language known as Tai/Ahom language which was spoken by Tai Ahom people since long time. Though the use of Tai/Ahom language during the ceremonies is an integral part of the rites and rituals performances even now, but due to cultural assimilation with the local Assamese people, they have adopted Assamese language in their day to

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F. Tea Garden Tribes:

The State Government had constituted an Expert Committee for preparing Ethnographic Reports on various tribes of Tea-Gardens. An Ethnographic Report has been prepared by the said committee based on socio-economic status of each tribe; the same has been furnished by the State Government in support of the proposal. The said committee in its justification states that tribes working in Tea and Ex. Tea Garden have retained their tribal characteristics which is evident from the ethnographic report. The arrival of the ancestors of these Adivasi communities viz. Santal, Oraon, Munda, Gonds etc. to Assam was even prior to the arrival of Mongolians followed by the Aryans. Therefore, they cannot be considered as migrants arrived shortly. They have settled for years with their own identity and formed the great Assamese society.

(ii) All the Tea Tribes are notified Schedule Tribe in the States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha. They have a specific culture and primitive traits in their socio economic life. In Assam they work as wage labourers only, as they do not have land for cultivation. The Expert Committee Report suggests that they have not migrated voluntarily to Assam. They have been brought to work as laborers in Tea Gardens by British long back. Still they have retained their tribal characteristics in their socio-religious life.

Keeping in view the facts stated above, the ORGI supports the recommendation of the State Government and the proposal for inclusion of above six communities in the STs list of Assam.

Thanks.

This publication is for dissemination.