

To

Shri Hukam Singh
Chairman, Social Justice Committee
4-A, 4th Floor, G-Block, Phase-3, Bapu Bhavan
Secretariat, Uttar Pradesh Govt
Lucknow-226001

Subject:-Inclusion of Rai Sikhs (Mahtams) in the List of MBCs in U.P.
as recommended by National Commission for Backward Classes
headed by Kaka Kalerkar (1953-55)

Respected Sir,

With reference to your notice in the Hindustan Times dated 30-7-2001, we submit the following facts and evidences for inclusion of Rai Sikhs(Mahtams) in the List of MBCs of U.P for your kind consideration:-

1. CHANGE OF CASTE NAME

The caste name from Mahtams to Rai Sikhs was changed vide Punjab Govt Notification No.1939-R dated 20-11-42 and Notification No.4994-R(IV)/69/5303 dated 1-12-69 in order to reduce the impact of the social disability. But its impact continued till date. They even embraced the Sikhism to lessen the social disability but of no avail. (copy at Annexure-I & II).

2. CENSUS REPORT 1883

Sir Denzil Ibbetson, who is still regarded as the main authority on the origin of castes/tribes, in his Census Report 1883 described Mahtams as –

“.....They are of exceedingly low caste, being almost outcasts (who is even below Sudra. Please see page 3) by origin they are vagrants, and in some parts they apparently retain their wandering habits, while everywhere they are still great hunters.....His descendants emigrated and settled along the banks of the rivers as they found quantities of ‘sarr’ in such situations and working in ‘sarr’ was their chief occupation.....They adopted the custom of marriage with widows according to the form of ‘chaddar dalna’ and so became ‘Sudras’.....Where they are not proprietors of the whole village, they reside in a separate group of huts at some distance from the main ‘abadi’.....(copy at Annexure-III).

3. CENSUS REPORT 1901

Mr Rose, Supdt of Census described them as –

“.....As a degraded class, living on all kind of garbage – if they can get no better food and principally engaged in thieving and cultivation.....ranked them with, or even below Baurias.....” (copy at Annexure-IV).

4. **DEPRESSED CLASSES 1931**

In 1931, Mr Hutton, the then Census Commissioner of India categorized systematically the Depressed Classes. They were included in the list of Depressed Classes in erstwhile Punjab, based on social and educational backwardness. (copy at Annexure-V).

5. **MAHAN KOSH 1930 BY BHAI KAHAN SINGH NABA**

Bhai Kahan Singh Nabha described them as –

“The chief occupation of this caste is rope-making and sirki-making, and they are treated as untouchables by others”. (copy at Annexure-VI).

6. **HISTORY OF SIKHS 1849 BY GENERAL CUNNINGHAM**

General Cunningham described them as moving and war-like tribe.
(copy at Annexure-VII).

7. **CRIMINAL TRIBES ACT ENQUIRY COMMITTEE 1949-50 by
SHRI A. AYYANGER, M.P.**

Mr Ayyanger described them as, “..... till recently, the Mahtams (Rai Sikhs) were a wandering tribe, residing mainly on riverine forests and living on hunting and crime.....” (copy at Annexure-VIII).

8. **MAHTAMS (RAI SIKHS) AS EX-CRIMINAL TRIBE(VIMUKAT JATI)**

They have also been categorized as Denotified Tribe(Vimukat Jatis) in erstwhile Punjab. These communities were governed by Special Regulation No.XXII of 1785 and Presidency Act of 1871, which was subsequently amended as Criminal Tribes Act 1924 for imposing restrictions upon these tribes. This black Act was repealed on 31-8-1952 and Criminal Tribes came to be known as Denotified Tribes (Vimukat Jatis). The Central Backward Classes Commission 1953-55 by Kak Kalelkar recommended on Vimukat Jatis –

“.....These groups may be distributed in small groups in towns and villages where they would come in contact with other people and get an opportunity for turning a new leaf. This would help in their eventual assimilation in society.....Children of these groups should be removed from their parents on attaining the age of seven and should be put in suitable hostels.....The hereditary caste panchayat system of these groups should be abolished.....” (copy at Annexure-IX).

9. **LAKUR COMMITTEE REPORT 1965**

The Lakur Committee of Central Govt observed on Vimukat Jats as,

“....Our enquiry reveals that the benefits meant for SC/ST have not been availed of by Vimukat Jatis to a considerable extent. So, these castes may be taken out from the lists of SC/ST and given a special treatment.....” (copy at Annexure-X).

10. FOOD HABITS DECIDE THE SOCIAL STATUS OF A CASTE

As per 'India 2001 Encyclopedia', the lowermost social hierarchy of the caste is based principally on any of the four factors - (1) rituals – not allowed to worship at common place; (2) food habits – eating certain animal flesh not commonly eaten by others including that of pigs; (3) maintenance of purity – avoiding pollution - evolving not touching/keeping distance, even not allowed to enter certain localities; and (4) hereditary profession – impure profession and menial jobs. **People eating certain animal flesh not commonly eaten by others including that of pigs or bandicoots and dead domesticated animals are considered as being belonging to the lowermost.** As per all the Census Reports, including Census Report 1901, Mahtams were engaged chiefly in eating pigs and living on all kinds of garbage – if they can get no better food. As per the Report of Backward Classes Commission by Kaka Kalelkar (1953-55), the members of Ex-Criminal Tribes were not even allowed to enter markets and towns. And thus, they were considered as outcasts, Sudras and being belonging to the lowermost social strata of the society. (Copy at Annexure-X)

11. RAI SIKHS(MAHTAMS) AS MOST BACKWARD CLASS

They were recognized as “Most Backward Class” at Sl No. 64 in the erstwhile Punjab and PEPSU by the Central Backward Classes Commission 1953-55 headed by Kaka Kalelkar. At present, they are notified in State List and Central List of OBCs in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh. They have also been notified in State List of OBCs by Delhi Govt Notification No.F.28/93/91-92/SCST/P&S/4384 dated 20-1-95, U.P.Govt Notification No.11.M.M./64-1-1996 dated 1-5-97 and Rajasthan Govt Notification dated 12-11-99. (copy at Annexure-XI).

12. EDUCATIONAL BACKWARDNESS

Their literacy is the lowest of all the castes due to extreme poverty. According to Census Report 1921, the literacy of SCs stood at 19 per thousand while it was only 4 per thousand for Mahtams(Rai Sikhs). It was 95 per thousand for general. (copy at Annexure-XII)

13. TRADITIONAL OCCUPATIONS

Their chief occupation is rope-making and sirki-making. They are hereditary hunters, vagrants and agriculturists, living more or less a vagrant life in the jungles and on river-banks. It is said that during Akbar's regime, they refused to have matrimonial alliances with the Mughals and they were forced to leave for the remotest forests on river banks, thereby adopted these occupations. Mr Purser rightly described them, "...His descendants emigrated and settled along with banks of the rivers as they found quantities of sarr in such situations and working in sarr was their chief occupation..." They work in fields and move about in gangs at harvest time in search of employment as reapers. They are badly affected by floods.

14. REPRESENTATION IN INDUSTRY,TRADE AND GOVT SERVICE.

They cultivated jungles into fields and became labourers/tenants. They have very negligible representation in industry, trade or business, State/Central Govts services. There is no Gazetted

Officer/IPS/IAS /IFS/MP/MLA in the State from this community.

15. DIFFERENT CULTURE/TRADITIONS/GEOGRAPHICAL ISOLATION

They are governed by their own tribal councils i.e. caste panchayats. They have their own culture, language, history and heritage. They face acute problems during wars and floods. They are often cut off from the rest of the society and have not yet assimilated with general public. They are geographically isolated from the rest of the castes and the society.

16. INTERNATIONAL BORDERS

They are residing on international border with Pakistan in Ferozpur and Amritsar of Punjab, and Sri Ganganagar and Bikaner of Rajasthan. They are also residing on the border with Nepal in the districts of Lakhimpur Kheri, Pillibhit and Nainital in U.P. They faced two wars with Pakistan in 1965 and 1971. At both the times, this tribe was hard hit and all the 400 civilian Prisoners of War from Fazilka Sector belonged to this tribe.

17. POPULATION

At present, the population of this tribe is about 50 lakhs in the country. They are now most numerous in Ferozpur, Kapurthala, Amritsar, Bathinda, Moga and Jalandhar of Punjab, Hissar, Jind, Sirsa, Fatehabad, Faridabad and Karnal of Haryana, Bharatpur, Alwar, Bikaner and Sri Ganganagar of Rajasthan, Nainital, Bijnore, Lakhimpur Kheri and Pillibhit of U.P. and Union Territory of Delhi (Village Jhangola, in Alipur Block, Villages Jaitpur, Tigri, Tuglakabad, Chhattarpur in Mehrauli Block).

Originally, they belonged to the erstwhile Punjab before 1947. However, they moved to U.P., Rajasthan and Delhi gradually after 1960.

18. The first National Commission for Backward Classes headed by Kaka Kalerkar in its report in 1955 had recommended their inclusion in the List of MBCs for Punjab. They were living in the erstwhile Punjab at that time. They moved to U.P. after 1960. The reservation benefit availed of by this caste is almost negligible so far.

19. It may be mentioned here that there is separate reservation for 'Most Backward Classes', 'Other Backward Classes' and 'Denotified Tribes (Vimukat Jatis) in Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, etc. so that the advanced sections of OBCs may not swallow the large chunk of the quota cake meant for the MBCs.

20. Keeping in view the above-explained facts and evidences, it is kindly requested that Rai Sikhs (Mahtams) may kindly be declared in the List of MBCs forthwith in the State of U.P. so that it may mitigate all the hardships, miseries, social disability, etc. to which this caste has so far been put. Separate reservation for 'Most Backward Classes', 'Other Backward Classes' and 'Denotified Tribes (Vimukat Jatis)' may also be made.

Hoping for favourable consideration,

Yours

faithfully,

Date: 11-8-2001

Encls:-As above

(Gurdip Singh Warwal)

President, Delhi Branch

All India Rai Sikhs(Mahtams) Welfare Association

B-103/A, Ganesh Nagar, New Delhi-110018

To

**The Chairman,
National Commission for Backward Classes,
Trikut-I, Bhikaji Cama Place,
New Delhi-110066**

**Subject:-Inclusion of Rai Sikhs (Mahtams) in the Central List of OBCs in U.P./Raj/Delhi
/Uttaranchal as recommended by National Commission for Backward Classes.**

Respected Sir,

**We submit the following facts and evidences for inclusion of Rai Sikhs(Mahtams) in
the Central List of OBCs in U.P./Rajasthan/Delhi/Uttaranchal for your kind
consideration:-**

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18. The National Commission for Backward Classes in its report in 2000 has recommended their

inclusion in the Central List of OBCs for Delhi, Rajasthan and U.P.

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20. Keeping in view the above-explained facts and evidences, it is kindly requested that Rai Sikhs (Mahtams) may kindly be declared in the Central List of OBCs forthwith in the State of Delhi/Rajasthan/U.P./Uttaranchal so that it may mitigate all the hardships, miseries, social disability, etc. to which this caste has so far been put. Separate reservation according to their population for 'Extremely Most Backward Classes' 'Most Backward Classes', 'Other Backward Classes' and 'Denotified Tribes(Vimukat Jatis)' may also be made.

Hoping for favourable consideration,

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Gurdip Singh Warwal)

President

All India Rai sikhs (Mahtams) Welfare Association

Registered No.1695,

B-103/A, Ganesh Nagar, New Delhi-110018.

Phone: 2-5999438

Date 31-8-1996

Encls:-As above

Copy to:-

1. Chief Minister,
Govt of U.P./Rajasthan/Delhi.

2.

To

**Shri Mukul Wasnik
Hon'ble Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment,
Govt of India, Shastri Bhavan,
New Delhi-110001**

Subject:-Exclusion of Rai Sikhs from the Central List of OBCs in Punjab

Respected Sir,

Rai Sikhs community has been declared as SC in the State of Punjab vide the Constitution (SC) Order (Amendment) Act 2007 (Act No.31 of 2007) (Entry No.39), passed by Parliament. Subsequently, Punjab Govt vide its Notification dated 20-11-2007, have rightfully excluded Rai Sikhs community from State list of Backward Classes.

2. Keeping in view the above-explained facts, it is kindly requested that Rai Sikhs community may kindly be excluded from the Central List of OBCs forthwith in the State of Punjab (Sl No.71) to avoid any confusion in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

(Gurdip Singh Warwal)

President

**All India Rai Sikhs Samaj Sudhar Sabha
B-103/A, Ganesh Nagar, New Delhi-110018.**

Phone: 2-5999438, Mobile: 9958115668

e-mail: warwal202@rediffmail.com

Date 1-1-2010

Encls:-As above

Copy to:-

**The Chairman,
National Commission for Backward Classes,
Trikut-I, Bhikaji Cama Place,
New Delhi-110066**

To

**Hon'ble Justice R.S. Singh
Chairman,
National Commission for Backward Classes,
Trikut-I, Bhikaji Cama Place,
New Delhi-110062**

**Subject:-Inclusion of Rai Sikhs (Mahtams) in the Central List of OBCs in
Uttaranchal**

Respected Sir,

We submit the following facts and evidences for inclusion of Rai Sikhs(Mahtams) in the Central List of OBCs in Uttaranchal for your kind consideration:-

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They were notified in the State List of OBC in Punjab vide its Notification No. 9159-4WG-II-59/38353 dated 23-12-1959, in Delhi, vide its Notification No.F.28/03/91-92/SCST/P&S/4384 dated 20-1-95, in U.P. vide its Notification No.11 MM/64-1-1996-1000/95 dated 1-5-97 and in Rajasthan vide Notification No.F.11(125)R&P/SWD/74085 dated 3-11-99. They were notified in Central List of OBC in Rajasthan and U.P. vide Notification No.12011/44/99-BCC dated 21-9-2000 issued by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, New Delhi. (copy at Annexure-XI).

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14. REPRESENTATION IN INDUSTRY,TRADE AND GOVT SERVICE.

They cultivated jungles into fields and became labourers/tenants. They have very negligible representation in industry, trade or business, State/Central Govts services. There is no IPS/IAS /IFS/MP/MLA in the State from this community.

15. DIFFERENT CULTURE/TRADITIONS/GEOGRAPHICAL ISOLATION

They are governed by their own tribal councils i.e. caste panchayats. They have their own culture, language, history and heritage. They face acute problems during wars and floods. They are often cut off from the rest of the society and have not yet assimilated with general public. They are geographically isolated from the rest of the castes and the society.

16. INTERNATIONAL BORDERS

They are residing on international border with Pakistan in Ferozpur and Amritsar of Punjab, and Sri Ganganagar and Bikaner of Rajasthan. They are also residing on the border with Nepal in the districts of Lakhimpur Kheri, Pillibhit and Nainital in U.P. They faced two wars with Pakistan in 1965 and 1971. At both the times, this tribe was hard hit and all the 400 civilian Prisoners of War from Fazilka Sector belonged to this tribe.

17. POPULATION

At present, the population of this tribe is about 50 lakhs in the country. They are now most numerous in Ferozpur, Kapurthala, Amritsar, Bathinda, Moga and Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Mansa of Punjab, Hissar, Jind, Sirsa, Fatehabad, Faridabad and Karnal of Haryana, Bharatpur, Alwar, Bikaner, Hanumangarh and Sri Ganganagar of Rajasthan, **Nainital and Shaheed Udham Singh Nagar of Uttaranchal**, Bijnore, Lakhimpur Kheri and Pillibhit of U.P. and Union Territory of Delhi (Village Jhangola, in Alipur Block, Villages Jaitpur, Tigri, Tuglakabad, Chhattarpur in Mehrauli Block). **Originally, they belonged to the erstwhile**

Punjab before 1947. However, they moved to U.P., Rajasthan and Delhi gradually after 1960. Uttaranchal State was created from U.P. in November 2000.

19. It may be mentioned here that there is separate reservation for 'Extremely Most Backward Classes' 'Most Backward Classes', 'Other Backward Classes' and 'Denotified Tribes (Vimukat Jatis) in Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, U.P. etc. so that the advanced sections of OBCs may not swallow the large chunk of the quota cake meant for the OBCs. The first Backward Classes Commission headed by Kaka Kalelkar (1953-1955) established by Central Govt had already identified 'Most Backward Classes' and 'Other Backward Classes' in the country.

20. Keeping in view the above-explained facts and evidences, it is kindly requested that **Rai Sikhs (Mahtams) may kindly be declared in the Central List of OBCs forthwith** in the State of Uttaranchal so that it may mitigate all the hardships, miseries, social disability, etc. to which this caste has so far been put. Separate reservation according to their population for 'Extremely Most Backward Classes' 'Most Backward Classes', 'Other Backward Classes' and 'Denotified Tribes(Vimukat Jatis)' may also be made.

Hoping for favourable consideration,

Yours

faithfully,

Date 31-6-2004

Encls:-As above

(Gurdip Singh Warwal)

President

All India Rai sikhs (Mahtams) Welfare Association
Registered No.1695,
B-103/A, Ganesh Nagar, New Delhi-110018.
Phone: 2-5999438

Copy to:-

Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Govt of Uttaranchal
Dehradun

To

Hon'ble Justice R.S. Singh,
Chairman
National Commission for Backward Classes,

**Trikut-I, Bhikaji Cama Place,
New Delhi-110062**

Subject:-Inclusion of Rai Sikhs (Mahtams) in the Central List of OBCs in Delhi as recommended by National Commission for Backward Classes.

Respected Sir,

Kindly refer to our representation dated 30-4-2004 on the subject noted above.

We had submitted our memorandum along with detailed questionnaire and enclosures in March 1999 for inclusion of Rai Sikhs(Mahtams) in the Central List of OBCs in Delhi. There was a public hearing immediately thereafter.

2. We understand that the National Commission for Backward Classes had recommended in January 2000 the inclusion of Rai Sikhs (Mahtams) in the Central List of Delhi. However, no notification has been issued even after four years.

3. Keeping in view the recommendation of National Commission for Backward Classes, it is kindly requested that Notification declaring Rai Sikhs (Mahtams) as OBC in the Central List of Delhi. may be issued without any further delay.

Hoping for favourable consideration,

Yours faithfully,

Date: 4-6-2004

(Gurdip Singh Warwal)
President, Delhi Branch
All India Rai Sikhs(Mahtams) Welfare Association (Registered No.1695)
B-103/A, Ganesh Nagar, New Delhi-110018

Copy to:-

Smt Swapna Roy
Joint Secretary (BCM Division)
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
R.No.1, 9th Floor, Jeevan Prakash Building
25, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, Connaught Place
New Delhi-1

.....

To

THIRD REMINDER

**Hon'ble Justice R.S. Singh,
Chairman
National Commission for Backward Classes,
Trikut-I, Bhikaji Cama Place,
New Delhi-110062**

Subject:-Inclusion of Rai Sikhs (Mahtams) in the Central List of OBCs in Delhi as recommended by National Commission for Backward Classes.

Respected Sir,

Kindly refer to our representation dated 30-4-2004 and subsequent reminder dated 4-6-2004 on the subject noted above.

2. We understand that after complete investigation and detailed hearing, the National Commission for Backward Classes had recommended in January 2000 the inclusion of Rai Sikhs (Mahtams) in the Central List of Delhi. It has been stipulated under the provision of National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) Act 1993, **“The advice tendered by the Commission shall ordinarily be binding upon the Govt.”** However, no notification has been issued even after four years.

3. Punjab Govt vide their Notification No.4994-R(IV)/69-5303 dated 1-12-1969, has accepted that Rai Sikhs and Mahtams is one and the same caste. The first National Commission for Backward Classes 1953 has also accepted them as one community. The Central Govt vide Notification No.12011/44/99-BCC dated 21-9-2000 has included Rai Sikhs (Mahatams) in the Central List of OBC in U.P.

4. The candidates belonging to this community in Delhi are not given the benefit of reservation for Central Services meant for OBC in spite of the fact that the Commission had made recommendation long back (i.e. January 2000).

5. Keeping in view the the above facts and figures, it is kindly requested that Notification declaring Rai Sikhs (Mahtams) as OBC in the Central List of Delhi. may be issued without any further delay.

Hoping for immediate intervention in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

Date: 17-6-2004

(Gurdip Singh Warwal)

President, Delhi Branch

All India Rai Sikhs(Mahtams) Welfare Association (Registered No.1695)

B-103/A, Ganesh Nagar, New Delhi-110018

Copy to:-

Smt Swapna Roy

Joint Secretary (BCM Division)

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

R.No.1, 9th Floor, Jeevan Prakash Building

25, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, Connaught Place

New Delhi-1

To

**National Commission for Backward Classes,
Research Wing
Trikut-I, Bhikaji Cama Place,
New Delhi-110066
(FAX No.2-6183227)**

Subject:- Determining Creamy Layers - Separate Reservation for Extremely Most Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, Other Backward Classes and Denotified Tribes (Vimukat Jatis) in the Central Services.

Respected Sir,

With reference to your Notice in The Times of India dated 3-11-2003 on the subject mentioned above, I submit the following facts and evidences for your kind consideration:-

1. **Rai Sikhs as OBC**

Rai Sikhs community has been categorised as OBC in the Central Lists and State Lists in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh.

2. **LAKUR COMMITTEE REPORT 1965**

The Lakur Committee of Central Govt observed on Denotified Tribes(Vimukat Jatis) as -

“....Our enquiry reveals that the benefits meant for SC/ST have not been availed of by Vimukat Jatis to a considerable extent. So, these castes may be taken out from the lists of SC/ST and given a special treatment.....”

Rai Sikhs (Mahtams) were recognised as Denotified Tribes in Punjab and Haryana.

3 **REPRESENTATION IN INDUSTRY,TRADE AND GOVT SERVICE.**

They have very negligible representation in industry, trade or business, State/Central Govts services. There is no IPS/IAS /IFS/MP/MLA in the State from this community (Rai Sikhs). In spite of reservation for Other Backward Classes, no member from this community has got any job - even Clerk not to speak of Gazetted Officer or IAS in Central Services during the last 10 years i.e. since 8-9-1993 the day of implementation of Mandal Commission's Report. Therefore, the reservation policy for OBCs is faulty and has to be reviewed.

4. **EDUCATIONAL BACKWARDNESS**

Their literacy is the lowest of all the castes due to extreme poverty. According to Census Report 1921, the literacy of SCs stood at 19 per thousand while it was only 4 per thousand for Mahtams (Rai Sikhs). It was 95 per thousand for general. (copy attached)

5. It may be mentioned here that there is separate reservation for 'Extremely Most Backward Classes', 'Most Backward Classes', 'Other Backward Classes' and 'Denotified Tribes (Vimukat Jatis) in Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, U.P. etc. so that the advanced sections of OBCs may not swallow the large chunk of the quota cake meant for the OBCs.

6. The first Backward Classes Commission headed by Kaka Kalelkar (1953-1955) established by Central Govt had already identified 'Most Backward Classes' and 'Other Backward Classes' in the country. Rai Sikhs were recognised as Most Backward Class by the Commission.

7. Keeping in view the above-explained facts and evidences, it is kindly requested that **separate reservation according to their population for 'Extremely Most Backward Classes', 'Most Backward Classes', 'Other Backward Classes' and 'Denotified Tribes(Vimukat Jatis)' may be made. This is the only way to keep away 'Creamy Layer'.**

Hoping for favourable consideration,

Yours

faithfully,

Date: 1-12-2003

Encls:-As above

(Gurdip Singh Warwal)

President, Delhi Branch

All India Rai Sikhs(Mahtams) Welfare Association

B-103/A, Ganesh Nagar, New Delhi-110018

To

**The Chairman,
National Commission for Backward Classes,
Trikut-I, Bhikaji Cama Place,
New Delhi-110066
(FAX No.2-6183227)**

**Subject:-Inclusion of Rai Sikhs (Mahtams) in the Central List of OBCs in U.P./Raj/Delhi/
Uttaranchal as recommended by National Commission for Backward Classes.**

Respected Sir,

We submit the following facts and evidences for inclusion of Rai Sikhs(Mahtams) in the Central List of OBCs in U.P./Uttaranchal/Rajasthan/Delhi for your kind consideration:-

1. CENSUS REPORT 1883

Sir Denzil Ibbetson, who is still regarded as the main authority on the origin of castes/tribes, in his Census Report 1883 described Mahtams(Rai Sikhs) as –

“.....**They are of exceedingly low caste, being almost outcasts** by origin they are vagrants, and in some parts they apparently retain their wandering habits, while everywhere they are still great hunters.....His descendants emigrated and settled along the banks of the rivers as they found quantities of ‘sarr’ in such situations and working in ‘sarr’ was their chief occupation.....They adopted the custom of marriage with widows according to the form of ‘chaddar dalna’ and so became ‘Sudras’Where they are not proprietors of the whole village, they reside in a separate group of huts at some distance from the main ‘abadi’”

2. RAI SIKHS(MAHTAMS) AS MOST BACKWARD CLASS

They were recognized as “Most Backward Class” at Sl No. 64 in the erstwhile Punjab and PEPSU by the Central Backward Classes Commission 1953-55 headed by Kaka Kalelkar. At present, they are notified in State List and Central List of OBCs in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh. They have also been notified in State List of OBCs by Delhi Govt Notification No.F.28/93/91-92/SCST/P&S/4384 dated 20-1-95 and Rajasthan Govt Notification dated 12-11-99. U.P. Govt vide its notification dated 31-8-2001 has notified them as Extremely Most Backward Class. Originally, they belonged to the erstwhile Punjab before 1947. However, they moved to U.P., Rajasthan and Delhi gradually after 1960.

3. LAKUR COMMITTEE REPORT 1965

The Lakur Committee of Central Govt observed on Denotified Tribes(Vimukat Jatis) as -

“....Our enquiry reveals that the benefits meant for SC/ST have not been availed of by Vimukat Jatis to a considerable extent. So, these castes may be taken out from the lists of SC/ST and given a special treatment.....”

Rai Sikhs (Mahtams) were recognized as Denotified Tribes in Punjab and Haryana.

4 REPRESENTATION IN INDUSTRY,TRADE AND GOVT SERVICE.

They have very negligible representation in industry, trade or business, State/Central Govts services. There is no IPS/IAS /IFS/MP/MLA in the State from this community (Rai Sikhs). In spite of reservation for Other Backward Classes, no member from this community has got any job - even Clerk not to speak of Gazetted Officer or IAS in Central Services during the last 50 years from these three States.

5. **EDUCATIONAL BACKWARDNESS**

Their literacy is the lowest of all the castes due to extreme poverty. According to Census Report 1921, the literacy of SCs stood at 19 per thousand while it was only 4 per thousand for Mahtams (Rai Sikhs). It was 95 per thousand for general. (copy attached)

6. Our Association has been sending representations to the Commission for the last many years and also met the concerned members/officers of the commission from time to time. In this regard, Commission had recommended to Central Govt for their inclusion three years ago. But notification has not been issued so far.

7. Keeping in view the above-explained facts and evidences, it is kindly requested that notification may be issued forthwith for their inclusion in the Central List of OBCs in the State of Delhi/Rajasthan/U.P./Uttaranchal so that it may mitigate all the hardships, miseries, social disability, etc. to which this caste has so far been put.

Hoping for favourable consideration,

Yours faithfully,

Date:
Encls:-As above

(Gurdip Singh Warwal)
President, Delhi Branch
All India Rai Sikhs(Mahtams) Welfare Association
B-103/A, Ganesh Nagar, New Delhi-110018

Copy to:-

Smt Swapna Roy
Joint Secretary (BCM Division)
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
R.No.1, 9th Floor, Jeevan Prakash Building
25, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, Connaught Place
New Delhi. (FAX No.2-3765004)

To

Sardar Manmohan Singh
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
New Delhi-110011

Subject:-**Re-constitution of National Commission for Denotified Tribes (Vimukat Jatis)**
Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes

Respected Madam,

Govt of India had constituted 5-member National Commission for Denotified Tribes (Vimukta Jatis), Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Justice Dr Motilal B. Naik, vide Govt of India Gazette Notification No.12016/9/2003-SCD (RL Cell) dated 5-2-2004 (copy enclosed). The Commission was basically meant to study the unique problems of Denotified Tribes, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes.

2. However, Hon'ble Justice Dr Motilal B. Nayak resigned and the Commission could not submit any report so far.

3. It is kindly requested that the **National Commission for Denotified Tribes, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes may be re-constituted urgently** so that the Commission may submit its report to the Govt.

Hoping for consideration,

Yours
faithfully,

Dated : 18-2-2006

Encls: As above

(Gurdip Singh Warwal)
President,

All India Rai Sikhs (Mahtams) Welfare Association (Registered)
Registration No.1645, Delhi Branch
B-103/A, Ganesh Nagar,
New Delhi-110018
Phone: 2-5999438, Mobile:9871006523

To

**Financial Commissioner
Revenue Department
Government of Punjab,
Chandigarh**

Subject:- Publication of Punjab State Gazetteer

Respected Sir,

We understand that Punjab Govt shall be bringing out Punjab State Gazetteer every year incorporating the details of different castes of Punjab. We submit the historical background. facts and evidences for Rai Sikhs community also known as Mahtams and Sirkiband for your kind consideration.

2. CHANGE OF CASTE NAME

The caste name from Mahtams to Rai Sikhs was changed vide Punjab Govt Notification No.1939-R dated 20-11-42 and Notification No.4994-R(IV)/69/5303 dated 1-12-69 in order to reduce the impact of the social disability. But its impact continued till date. They even adopted the Sikhism to lessen the social disability but of no avail.

3. A GLOSSARY OF TRIBES AND CASTES OF PUNJAB BY Mr H.A.ROSE LAHORE 1911-1919

Mr H.A. Rose, who is still regarded as the main authority on the origin of castes and tribes spent 19 years of his life time to compile his voluminous book 'A Glossary of the Tribes and Castes of the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province' illustrated the Mahtams as –

“.....As a maker of ropes, the Mahtam is called 'Rassiwat' or 'Rassibat' and as a dweller in sirki or wattled screens, he is often styled 'Sirkiband'...”

Yours faithfully,

Date: 26-5-2004

Encls: As above

(Gurdip Singh Warwal)

President

All India Rai Sikhs(Mahtam/Sirkibands) Welfare Association
(Registered No.1645),B-103/A, Ganesh Nagar, New Delhi-18

To

Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Punjab
CHANDIGARH

Subject:- 27% reservation for OBCs in Civil Services

Respected Sir,

After long deliberation of the Report of Mandal Commission (1979-80), Govt of India under Article 340 of the Constitution of India, issued Office Memorandum No.36012/22/93-Estt(SCT) dated 8-9-1993 reserving 27% of vacancies for OBCs in Civil Services under the Govt of India for direct recruitment. Further, the candidates belonging to OBCs recruited on the basis of merit, are not to be adjusted against the reservation quota of 27%.

2. Following the above decision of the Govt of India, the State /U.T.Govts also made reservation for OBCs in Civil Services as follows:-

<u>Name of State/U.T.</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Notification No. and date</u>
Tamil Nadu	50%	GO No.1090 22-6-90
Uttar Pradesh	27%	5-12-93
Rajasthan	21%	25-2-94
Gujarat	27%	2-7-94
Karnataka	32%	21-9-94
Orissa	27%	4-12-94
Delhi	27%	No.28(93)91092/SCST/ P&S/4384 Dated 20-1-95
Haryana	27%	No.22/36/95-3GS-III 20-7-95
Andhra Pradesh	25%	
Bihar	27%	
Kerala	40%	
Maharashtra	26%	
Sikkim	21%	
Chandigarh	27%	
Daman & Diu	27%	
Pondichery	27%	

3. It may be mentioned here that there is separate reservation for 'Most Backward Classes', 'Other Backward Classes' and 'Denotified Tribes (Vimukat Jatis) in Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, etc. so that the advanced sections of OBCs may not corner all the reservation benefits meant for the less advanced sections of OBCs.

4. The Supreme Court of India by its historic Judgement dated 16-11-1992 had upheld Office Memorandum dated 13-8-1990 providing 27% reservation for OBCs and also directed the Govt of India and State Govts to set up a permanent Commission for OBCs.

5. The OBCs constitute more than 52% of the total population in Punjab. The first Backward Classes Commission headed by Kaka Kalelkar (1953-1955) was established by Central Govt. The Commission had already identified 'Most Backward Classes' and 'Other Backward Classes' in the State of Punjab.

6. In view of the above facts and evidences, it is kindly requested that 27% reservation for OBCs may be made in Civil Services and courses in educational institutions in Punjab. Separate reservation for 'Most Backward Classes', 'Other Backward Classes' and 'Denotified Tribes(Vimukat Jatis)' may also be made.

Hoping for an early decision in the matter,

(Gurdip Singh Warwal)

President

All India Rai Sikhs(Mahtam/Sirkibands) Welfare Association
(Registered No.1645),B-103/A, Ganesh Nagar, New Delhi-18

Copy to:-

Hon'ble Minister of State
for Social Justice and Empowerment
Govt of India
Shastri Bhavan
New Delhi.

To

Ms Subhulakshmi Jagdeesan
Hon'ble Minister of State
for Social Justice and Empowerment
Govt of India,Shastri Bhavan

REMINDER
MOST IMMEDIATE

New Delhi-110001

Subject:-Inclusion of Rai Sikhs (Mahtams) in the Central List of OBCs in Delhi as recommended by National Commission for Backward Classes.

Respected Sir,

Kindly refer to our representation dated 4-6-2004 and subsequent reminders dated 17-6-2004, 18-8-2004. 29-1-2005, 23-2-2005, 21-3-2005, 29-4-2005 and 6-6-2005 on the subject noted above.

2. After complete investigation and detailed hearing, the National Commission for Backward Classes, vide its Advice No.16/Delhi/2000 dated 6-1-2000, had recommended the inclusion of Rai Sikhs (Mahtams) in the Central List of Delhi. It has been prescribed under Section 9 (2) of National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) Act 1993 that **the advice tendered by the Commission shall ordinarily be binding upon the Govt. The proposal has also been cleared by Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Law and Justice.**

3. However, notification has not been issued even after six years. This has caused irreparable loss to the community.

4. Keeping in view the the above facts and figures, it is kindly requested that Notification declaring Rai Sikhs (Mahtams) as OBC in the Central List of Delhi. may be issued without any further delay under the well-established rules.

Hoping for immediate intervention in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

Date: 1-10-2005

(Gurdip Singh Warwal)
President, Delhi Branch
All India Rai Sikhs(Mahtams) Welfare Association (Registered No.1645)
B-103/A, Ganesh Nagar, New Delhi-110018

Copy to:-
Chairman
National Commission for Backward Classes
New Delhi-66.