

## **WEST BENGAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES**

### **REPORT ON SHAH(FAKIR), SHAH, SHA(MUSLIM), SAHAJI (MUSLIM), FAKIR CLASS**

Prologue

The West Bengal Commission for Backward Classes received application from Sajahan Ali Sah and 26 others from Paskura in the district of Purba Midnapore, Md. Kuddus Ali Sah of Jagatballavpur P.S. in the district of Howrah, Barijan Shah and 13 others from Diamond Harbour in the district of South 24-Parganas, Kutubuddin Sha and 14 others of Jaypur in the district of Bankura and Raisuddin Shah of Domkol in the district of Murshidabad. The applications were from the representatives of Shah (Fakir), Shah, Sha(Muslim) Sahaji (Muslim), Fakir. They prayed for their inclusion in the list of Backward Classes for the State of West Bengal citing their social, educational and economic backwardness as the reason. The community claimed to be included as OBC at par with that of 'Fakir, Sain' who were already declared to be OBC vide Notification No. 183-TW/BC-M6/82(I) dated 08.03.1996. However, the representatives of the community were heard on 25.11.2010 by the Commission.

The social indicators as emerged were summarized as under :

Social Status

Though at present the categories of applicants may have different social identity as far as practice of rites is concerned but study and available records revealed that there may not be any objection to club them with 'Fakir, Sain' who were declared as OBC vide No.183-TW/BC-M6/82(1) dated 08.03.1996.

Geographical Distribution	This class of people predominantly reside in Murshidabad, South 24-Parganas, Purba Midnapore, Howrah & North 24-Parganas.
Educational status	The educational scenario of the Shah (Fakir), Shah, Sha(Muslim) Sahaji (Muslim), Fakir Classes of people is extremely bleak.
Matrimonial alliances	In respect of matrimonial alliances no unique characteristic could be noted except that of restriction within the same community. .
Occupation	The traditional occupation of these Shah (Fakir), Shah, Sha(Muslim) Sahaji (Muslim), Fakir Classes of people akin to that of “Fakir, Sain” though different economic activities mostly agricultural labour are practiced by them deviating from traditional occupation to earn their livelihood..
Economic Condition	The economic condition of these classes+ of people is not at all satisfactory as compared to Fakir, Sain.
Dwelling Status	The dwelling condition of this community is quite sub-standard. Most of them live in thatched hutment or mud wall kuchcha houses. The existence of semi-pucca houses is very few and far between. The sanitary and hygienic condition prevalent in the habitats of the people of the community is not at all satisfactory, even by the rural standard. Some have makeshift thatched ones. The rest have to resort to open defecation. The people of the community are also disadvantaged in respect of having adequate and regular supply of drinking water. They have to depend on tube wells of Panchayat Bodies.

## Recommendation

Keeping in view the contents in the aforesaid paras this Commission recommends for inclusion of Shah (Fakir), Shah, Sha(Muslim) Sahaji (Muslim), Fakir Classes of people with “Fakir, Sain” in the list of Backward Classes for the State of West Bengal.

Sd/-

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**Subir Kumar Bhadra**  
Member Secretary

Sd/-

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**Justice Malay Sengupta**  
Chairman

Sd/-

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**Dr. Parimal Karmakar**  
Member

Sd/-

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**Dr. Debjani Sengupta**  
Member

Sd/-

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**Mursalin Molla**  
Member