

DISTRICT SCHEDULED CASTES SERVICE COOP.SOCIETY LTD.
NIZAMABAD.

❖ In order to eradicate the Jogin System in the district, the total (2156) jogins are covered so far under the different schemes as statement shown below:

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❖ Sl. Name of the Programme No.of bene-
❖ No. ficiaries.

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❖ 1. Covered under only FDR scheme Rs.10,000/- 979

❖ 2. Covered under FDR Rs.10,000/- and Economic 296
❖ Support Scheme only.

❖ 3. Covered under FDR Rs.10,000/- and Land 160
❖ Purchase Scheme only.

❖ 4. Covered under Land Purchase scheme only. 721

❖ Total identified. 2156

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❖ Under the Fixed Deposit Scheme (1081) FDRs has been matured i.e., after completion of (3) years. The beneficiaries are requesting to utilize that money for their concrete purposes. The District Administration is decided to conduct a counseling for Jogins to take their options for proper utilization of money and to further improve their economic status. Accordingly, the instructions to be issued to the banks to withdraw the money by the Jogins.

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❖ THE POTHARAJ SYSTEM:

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This system is the primary cause for the prevalence of Jogin system in the district. The Potharajus will perform the ceremony of Jogin preparation. They are authorized to perform the village devata festivals and used to collect the small contributions from the villagers during the course of performance. The act which is called in "GAVU" which is uncivilized activity, in this they will cut the throught of a live animal or bird by his teeth. One Potharaju was killed during this performance due to suffocation in Navipet Mandal in 1999. These people will have no economic activity other than this.

This community is also considered to be the poor, majority of them are belongs to S.C.Community. The District Administration is planning to rehabilitate the potharajus by conducting the counseling shortly to improve their economic position and bring them to main stream of society

EARLY ATTEMPTS TO REFORM JOGIN/ POTHARAJUS

- ❖ 1988 Two Jogin marriages were held in 1998 in the presence of Smt. Kumudben Joshi, the then Governor of AP.
- ❖ 1991 Two Jogin marriages held in Chilli Nilayam, Varni.
- ❖ 1991 6 Potharajus of Borlam Village, Banswada Mandal came out of their profession and removed their hair in presence of the then Collector.
- ❖ 1999 Marriage of Bojamma with Anjaiah held at Raj Bhavan, Hyderabad in presence of Lady Governor Smt. Haripriya Ranjgarajan.
- ❖ 2001 June, 9th marriage of Rajubai with Mallesh held in the presence of ministers Sri. Mandava Venkateshwer Rao, Sri Pocharam Srinivas Reddy and Sri Asok Kumar, IAS, District Collector.
- ❖ 2001 June, 21st, two hundred (200) Potharajus voluntarily removed their tuft of hair in the presence of District Collector Sri Asok Kumar in a function held at the Collectorate ground.
 - Press described it as a “Historical Social revolution”
- ❖ 2001 October 28th, ten (10) Jogin Marriages performed (.)
- ❖ 2001 October 28th, 31 Potharajus voluntarily removed their tuft of hair in the presence of Dr.C.Rangarajan, Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Minister Sri P.Srinivas Reddy and Sri G.Asok Kumar, Collector & Dist. Magistrate.

All these Pothurajus have been rehabilitated under various schemes of AP SC Development Corporation by the district administration.

- ❖ Justice Dr.K.Ramaswamy, Member of National Human Rights Commission in his report dated: 12.11.2001 to Chairman National Human Rights Commission appreciated the steps taken for the rehabilitation of Jogin & Pothurajus. In his report he wrote. “The NHRC activity associates itself with all these humanitarian and humane programme of action under taken by the District Collector Asok Kumar and I congratulated him for taking such bold measures for their emancipation”.
- ❖ 2002 August 1, 41 pothurajus removed their tuft and another 235 relinquished their trinkets, lashes and whips to join the main stream in front of Sri. Asok Kumar, Collector and district Magistrate

With this almost all Pothurajus have been mainstreamed and it is possible to say that Pothuraju system is almost wiped out from the district.

THE POTHARAJUS IN NIZAMABAD DISTRICT:

The Voluntary organization namely “Sanga Vikas” based at Varni is working towards the eradication of the Potharaju System. The total (1200) Potharajus are identified in (90) villages out of (22) mandals in the District. The details are shown below.

- ❖ The Potharaju are having the belief that, their superstitious powers vested with their hair only. So that, they will not remove their hair from childhood, once the hair removed he will be disqualified to do the Potharaju duties. The motivation work done by the “Sanga Vikas” organization nearly 200 Potharajus are voluntarily come forward to remove their hairs and to relinquish the profession. The District Administration is also extended its cooperation, obviously the this system is the root cause of the Jogin System and decided to conduct a survey to know their socio-economic conditions to prepare an Action Plan for rehabilitation of Potharajus.
- ❖ In 1999, in Jannepally village of Navipet Mandal one Potharaju Sri Asadi Rajeshwar S/o Linganna was killed due to suffocation during the performance of “GAVU”. Which was the first incident coming to the notice of the district administration. This incident has shown the importance of creation of awareness among the Potharajus Community and to bring them into the main stream of the Society