

**A NOTE ABOUT THE BANJARA
TRIBE TO BE PUT BEFORE THE
FIRST PHOTO.**

The Banjara tribe, also called Lambada, live among the Raj Gonds, but never in the same villages. Unlike the Raj Gonds they speak an Indo-Aryan language like Marathi and Gujarati. They originally came from Gujarat and Maharashtra where they were nomadic cattle herders with an expertise in training draught bullocks. They became the transport troupes for the Mughal army and were also used by the Nizam of Hyderabad to transport his army.



However, in peace time they often lived as highway robbers. The British colonials defined them as a 'criminal tribe'. They are still an assertive and occasionally aggressive people, who have been more successful at asserting their tribal status over the milder and gentler Raj Gonds. There is continual conflict between them for the advantages of tribal status under the Indian constitution. The Raj Gonds are always claiming that they should lose their tribal status.