



पी.एस. कृष्णन्
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सद
राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग
भारत सरकार

नई दिल्ली - 110 066
MEMBER-SECRETARY
NATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR BACKWARD CLASSES
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW DELHI - 110 066

04. 06. 1998

DO NCBC Advice NOs. 16, 17 Madhya Pradesh/98

Dear Shri Manavalan;

I am sending herewith the Advices of the National Commission for Backward Classes under Section 9(1) of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) Act, 1993 for inclusion of

- (1) Kahra as a synonym of Dhimar/Dhimer etc., and
- (2) Panika (except in the districts of Chhatarpur, Datia, Panna, Rewa, Satna, Shahdol, Sidhi and Tikamgarh where it is included in Scheduled Tribes List)

in the Central List of Backward Classes for Madhya Pradesh, for necessary action by the Central Govt. under Section 9(2) of The Act.

2. With these, Advices on 252 castes/sub-castes/synonyms etc. have been tendered to the Govt. by the NCBC, after its reconstitution in 1997, of which 249 are still pending with the Govt. for notification.

Best wishes,

[Signature]
4/6/98

Encl: As stated

Shri D.K. Manavalan
Secretary to Govt. of India
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Shastri Bhavan
NEW DELHI 110 001

[Signature]
Yours sincerely
(P.S. KRISHNAN)

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

MADHYA PRADESH BENCH

FINDINGS

Case : REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF "KAHRA" IN THE CENTRAL LIST OF BACKWARD CLASSES FOR MADHYA PRADESH AS SYNONYM OF KAHAR.....

PER SHRI SAHU AKSHAYA BHAI, MEMBER

I. REQUEST

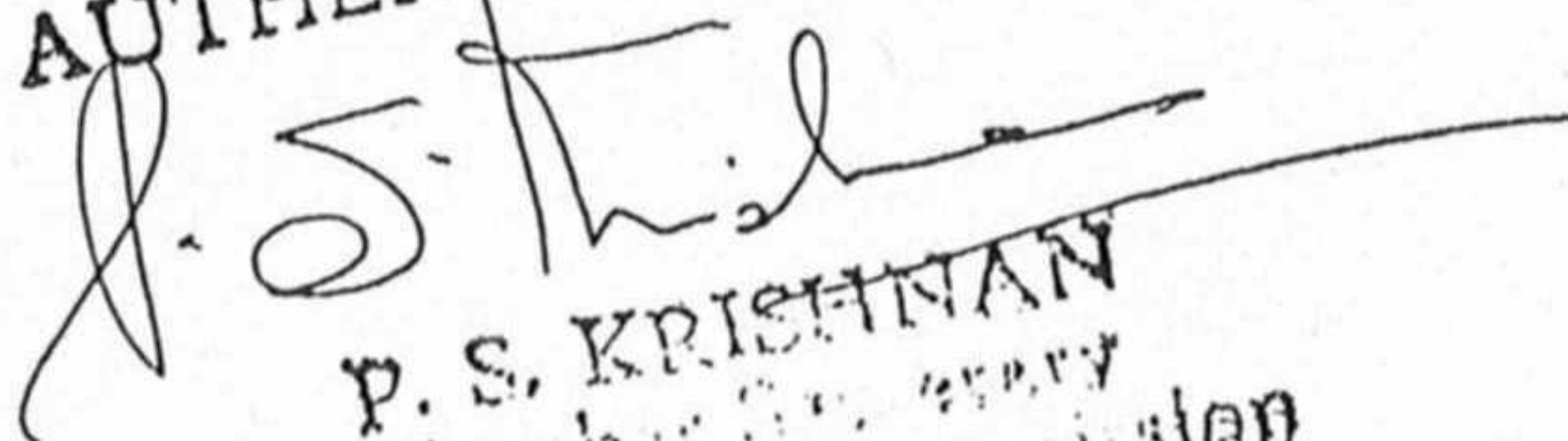
This case arises out of the Request received in this Commission for the inclusion of "Kahra" in the Central List of Backward Classes as a synonym of "Kahar" in the state of Madhya Pradesh from:-

Shri Pran Nath Aditya,
Chhattisgarh Kahra(Kahar) Samaj,
Distt. Bilaspur(M.P.)

II. PUBLIC HEARING

2. The 3-Member Madhya Pradesh Bench of the Commission, consisting of Hon'ble Members S/Shri Sahu Akshaya Bhai, Prof. U.P. Singh and Navtej Puadhi, NCBC held a Public Hearing at Bhopal on 6.1.1998 inter-alia to examine this request. At the Public Hearing the State Government was represented by Shri A.L. Naharia, Secretary and Shri N.R. Singh, Dy. Director, Madhya Pradesh State Backward Classes Commission.

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Member Secretary
National Commission
for Backward Classes

III. FACTS

3. The relevant entries in different lists of Backward Classes for Madhya Pradesh are as follows:-

State List

"12. Dhimar, Bhoi, Kahar, Kahra, Dhiwar/Mallah/Nawda/Turaha, Kewat(Kashyap, Nishad, Rackwar, Batham) Kir(Excluding Bhopal, Raisen and Sehore Districts), Britiya(Vritiya), Singraha, Jalari(Jalarnalu in Bastar Distt.), Sondhiya"

(As per list dated 5.4.1997)

(ii) Mandal List

"58. Bhoi"

"86. Dhimer, Benua, Banawar, Bhorji, Dhimar, Kewat, Raikar, Raikwar Saimari"

"143. Kahar"

"165. Kir"

"191. Mullah"

"210. Navda"

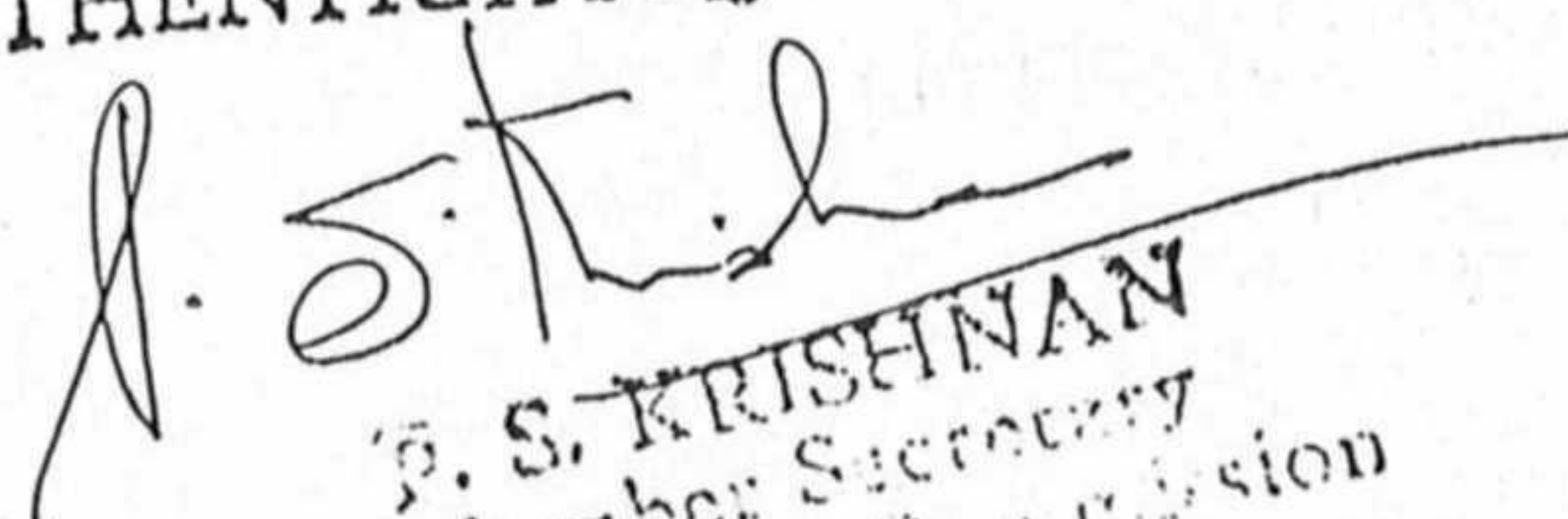
"271. Turha"

(iii) Central List

"11. Dhimar/Dhimer, Bhoi, Kahar, Dhiwar, Mallah, Nawda, Navda, Turaha, Kewat(Rackwar, Raikwar), Kir(Excluding Bhopal, Raisen and Sehore Districts), Britiya/Vritiya, Sondhiya"

4. Ethnographic information available in the Book- "The Tribes and Castes of the Central Provinces of India-Vol. II, Written by R.V. Russell & Hiralal, first Published in 1916 and reprinted by Asian Educational Services, New Delhi in 1993, states:-

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Member Secretary
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Dhimar, Kahar, Bhoi, Palewar, Baraua, Machhandar:- The caste of fishermen and palanquin-bearers. In 1911 the Dhimars numbered 284,000 persons in the Central Provinces and Berar, Being most numerous in the Maratha Districts. In the north of the Province we find in place of the Dhimars the Kahars and Mullahs, and in the east or Chhattisgarh country the Kewats. But the distinction between these castes is no more than nominal, for in some localities both Kahar and Kewat are returned as sub-castes of Dhimar....."(p.502)

"Another business of the Dhimar's is to take sweat potatoes and boiled plums to the fields at harvest time and sell them. He supplies water for drinking to the reapers and receives three sheaves a days in payment. On the fifteenth of Jesth(May) the Dhimar goes round to the cultivators, throwing his fishing net over their heads and receives a small present".(p.509)

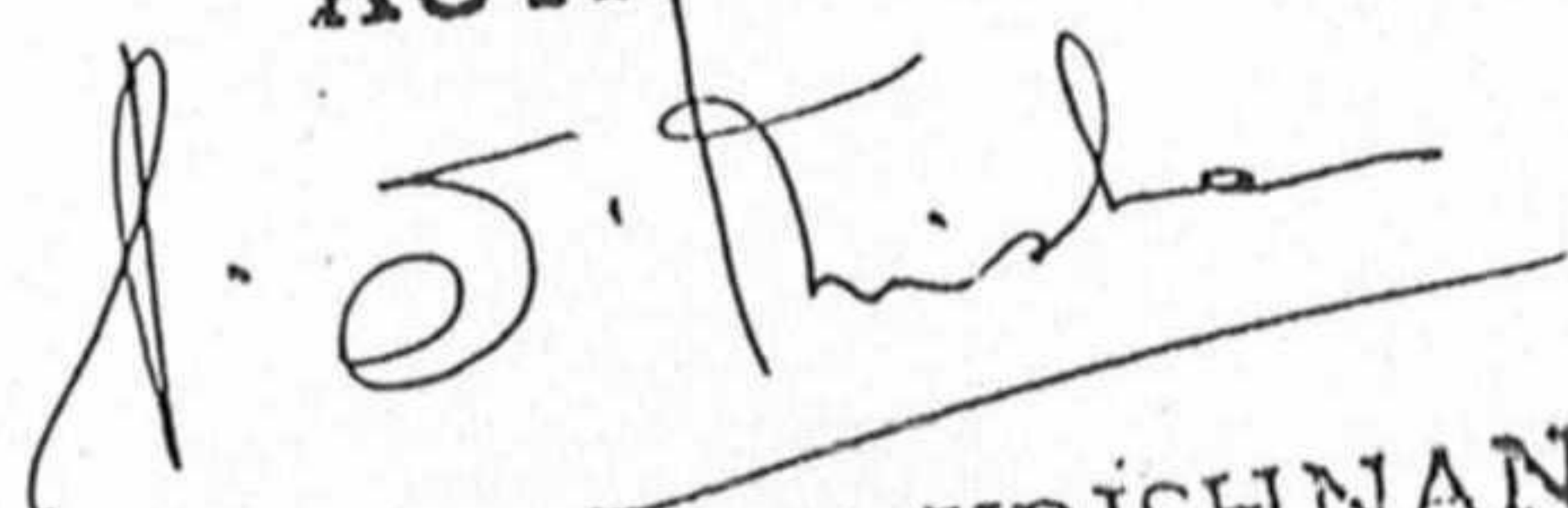
5. Census of India, 1931, Central Provinces & Berar, Part I-Report by W.H. Shoobert, First Edition 1932-reprinted in 1992 by Manohar Publication, New Delhi in chapter XII-Appendix(p.378) has referred to :- Kahar - A caste-and Kahra also known as Kahra.

6. During the Public Hearing the representatives of the State Govt. stated before the Bench that this caste/community has opted the dignified name 'Kahra' and this is the synonym of "Kahar" caste/community. The occupation of the above mentioned caste/community is the same. Those present from different sections of the society did not object to the inclusion of this synonymous name rather supported it.

IV. FINDINGS

7. From the above evidence it is established that 'Kahra' is a name adopted by 'Kahar' a socially backward caste/community, as such, it is the Finding of the Bench that 'Kahra' is a synonym of existing entry-"Dhimar/Dhimer, Bhoi, Kahar....." and be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Madhya Pradesh and the amended entry be read as follows:-

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Member, Commission

"11. Dhimar/Dhimer, Bhoi, Kahar, Kahra, Dhiwar, Mallah, Nawda, Navda, Turaha, Kewat(Rackwar, Raikwar), Kir(Excluding Bhopal, Raisen and Sehore Districts), Britiya/Vritiya, Sondhia"

Ashaya
27-05-98
(SAHU AKSHAYA BHAI)

Uday Singh
20/5/98
(U.P. SINGH)

Navtej Puadhi
1.6.98
(NAVTEJ PUADHI)

V. ADVICE OF THE COMMISSION

8. The Commission considered and agreed in full with the above Findings of the Madhya Pradesh Bench and decided to tender the following advice to the Central Government as per section 9(1) of the NCBC Act, 1993:-

"Kahra" be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Madhya Pradesh as a synonym of "Dhimar/Dhimer, Bhoi, Kahar....." and the amended entry read as follows:-

"11. Dhimar/Dhimer, Bhoi, Kahar, Kahra, Dhiwar, Mallah, Nawda, Navda, Turaha, Kewat(Rackwar, Raikwar), Kir(Excluding Bhopal, Raisen and Sehore Districts), Britiya/Vritiya, Sondhiya"

Ashaya
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Navtej Puadhi
1.6.98

P. K. Shyamsundar
3/6/98

JUSTICE P. K. SHYAMSUNDAR
Chairperson
National Commission For
Backward Classes
Government of India
New Delhi.

P. S. Krishnan
3.6.98

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P. S. Krishnan
P. S. KRISHNAN
Member Secretary
National Commission
for Backward Classes

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

MADHYA PRADESH BENCH

FINDINGS

Case : REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF "PANIKA" IN THE CENTRAL LIST OF BACKWARD CLASSES FOR MADHYA PRADESH

PER SHRI SAHU AKSHAYA BHAI, MEMBER

I. REQUEST

This case arises out of the Request received in this Commission for the Inclusion of "Panika" in the Central List of Backward Classes in the areas other than those where it has been notified in Scheduled Tribes in the State of Madhya Pradesh from:-

1. Shri K.D. Mahant
Qtr. No. 228/C, Sector 6,
Balko Nagar,
Koraba-495684(M.P.)

II. PUBLIC HEARING

The 3- Member Madhya Pradesh Bench of the Commission, consisting of Hon'ble Members Shri Sahu Akshaya Bhai, Prof. U.P. Singh and Shri Navtej Puadhi held a Public Hearing at Bhopal on 6.1.98 inter-alia to examine this Request. At the Public Hearing the State Government was represented by Shri A.L. Nahariya, Secretary and Shri N.R. Singh, Dy. Director, State Backward Classes Commission. Nobody from the caste/community appeared before the Bench at the time of Public Hearing.

III. FACTS

This caste/community has originally been included in the State List of Backward Classes for Madhya Pradesh and entry is as follows :-

"47. Panka, Panika(Excluding Chhatarpur, Panna, Datia, Tikamgarh, Satna, Rewa, Sidhi and Shahdol districts)"

This caste/community was not included in the Mandal List. Therefore, the caste/community was not included in the first phase Central List of OBCs, as it did not fulfil the criteria of commonality i.e. being in State List and as well as Mandal List.

NOTIFIED

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Member Secretary
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for Backward Classes

4. The caste/community has not submitted NCBC's Questionnaire.

5. Ethnographic information available in the Book – "The Tribes & Castes of the central Provinces of India-written by R.V. Russell & Hiralal, pub. By Asian Educational Services, New Delhi-1993. Vol. IV(first Published in 1916) mentions as follows :-

Panika – "A Dravidian caste of weavers and labourers found in Mandla, Raipur and Bilaspur, and numbering 215,000 persons in 1911. The name is a variant on that of the Pan tribe of Orissa and Chota Nagpur, who are also known as Panika, Chik, Ganda and by various other designations. In the Central Provinces it has, however, a peculiar application; for while the Pan tribe proper is called Ganda in Chhatisgarh and the Uriya country, the Pankas form a separate division of the Gandas, consisting of those who have become members of the Kabirpanthis sect. In this way the name has been found very convenient, for since Kabir, the founder of the sect, was discovered by a weaver woman lying on the lotus leaves of a tank, like Moses in the bulrushes, and as a newly initiated convert is purified with water, so the Pankas hold that their name is Panika or 'from water'. As far as possible then they disown their connection with the Gandas, one of the most despised castes, and say that they are a separate caste consisting of the disciples of Kabir..... 'The Panka indeed is born of water, and his body is made of drops of water, but there were Pankas before Kabir. Or another rendering of the second line is, 'First he was a Panka and afterwards he became a disciple of Kabir'.....(pp. 324-325)

..... "The caste are generally weavers, producing coarse country cloth, and a number of them serve as village watchmen while others are cultivators and labourers..... They are somewhat poorly, esteemed by their neighbours, who say of them, where a Panka can get a little boiled rice and a pumpkin, he will stay for ever meaning that he is satisfied, with this and will not work to get more'..... Owing to the abstinence of the Pankas from flesh and liquor they rank above the Gandas and other impure castes".(p. 329)

6. First Backward Class Commission also known as (Kaka Kalelkar Report) had included 'Panka' in the Backward Class List of Madhya Pradesh without referring to any area restriction. The occupation recorded is cotton weavers and population as 1,40,736. However, at that time Kaka Kalelkar Commission had not included this caste in Bhopal and Madhya Bharat which later on became part of present Madhya Pradesh at the time of reorganisation of States.

7. Census of India, 1931- Central Provinces of Berar part – I by W.H. Shoobert, First Edition 1932, reprinted by Manohar, 1922 has referred to this caste/community as follows :-

.....The names have been given of those which form 10 per mille or more of the total population of the Central Provinces and Berar. The enormous predominance of the Gonds, who as yet have a negligible voice and negligible influence

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in the administration of the province, is most suggestive. Next come the Mehra, untouchable except in remote tracts. The strength of three other untouchable castes- the Chamars, the Satnamis and the Pankas-is also very considerable, while the Dhobis, certain sub-castes among whom are regarded as unclean in parts of the province, form 10 per mille of the population.....(p.358)

The names of castes which, although not universally regarded as untouchable, were treated as unclean in certain divisions or certain districts were Panka, Dhobi, Pardhan, Dhimar, Ghasia etc. The number of the caste people 'Panika' has been given as 204,304 in British districts where considered untouchables.....(p.365)

8. At the time of Public Hearing the State Commission for Backward Classes, Madhya Pradesh handed over a note on the proposed points for consideration of NCBC, out of various suggestions, a specific mention has been made of "Panika/Vobaria" that it should be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. In this regard, it may be noted that Panika has been included in the Scheduled Tribe List of Madhya Pradesh with area restriction i.e. in Chhatarpur, Datia, Panna, Rewa, Satna, Shahdol, Sidhi and Tikamgarh districts and in the rest of the State their Request for inclusion in Central List of Backward Classes is quite legitimate.

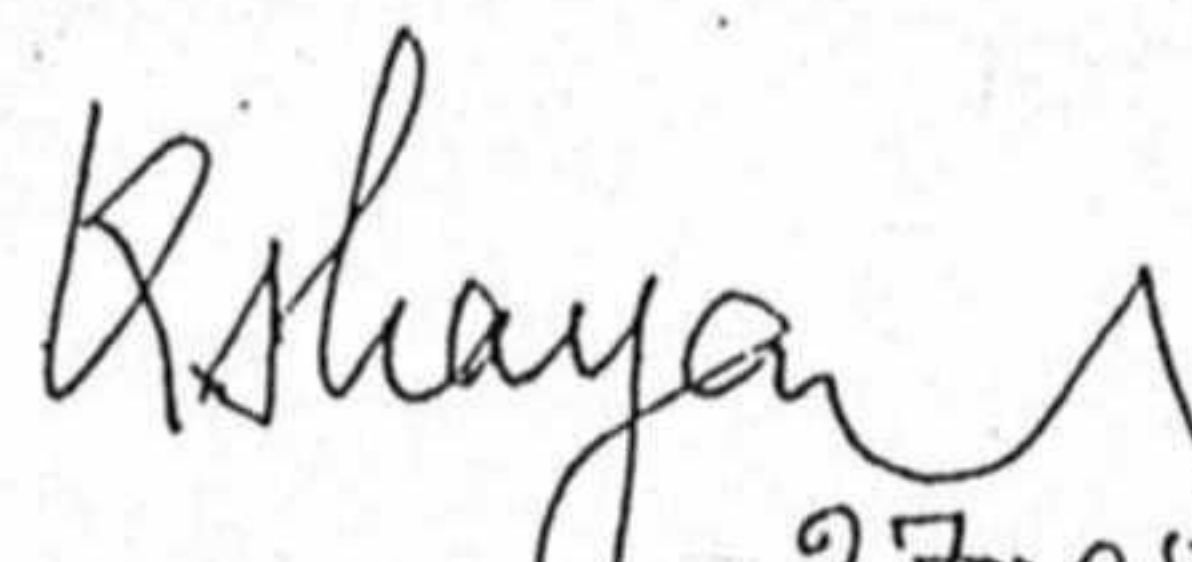
9. It may further be added that Panika has been included in the State Backward Class List with area restriction and the representationist has taken the plea that since the caste/community is in State Backward Class list so it may be included in the Central List as they are being deprived of reservation benefits extended to Backward Classes in a number of Govt. of India undertakings located in that area.

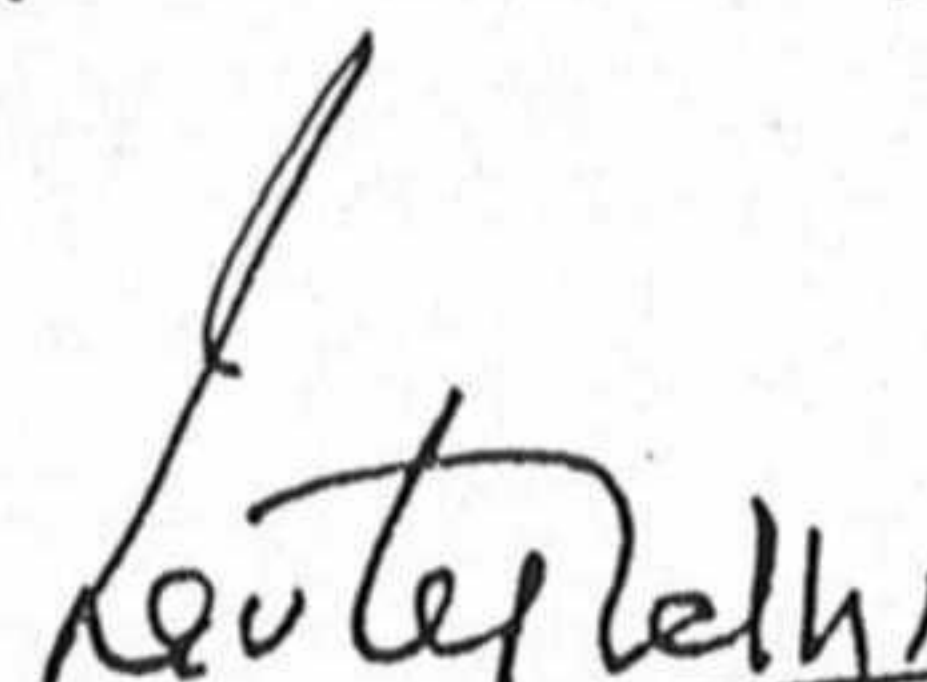
IV. FINDINGS

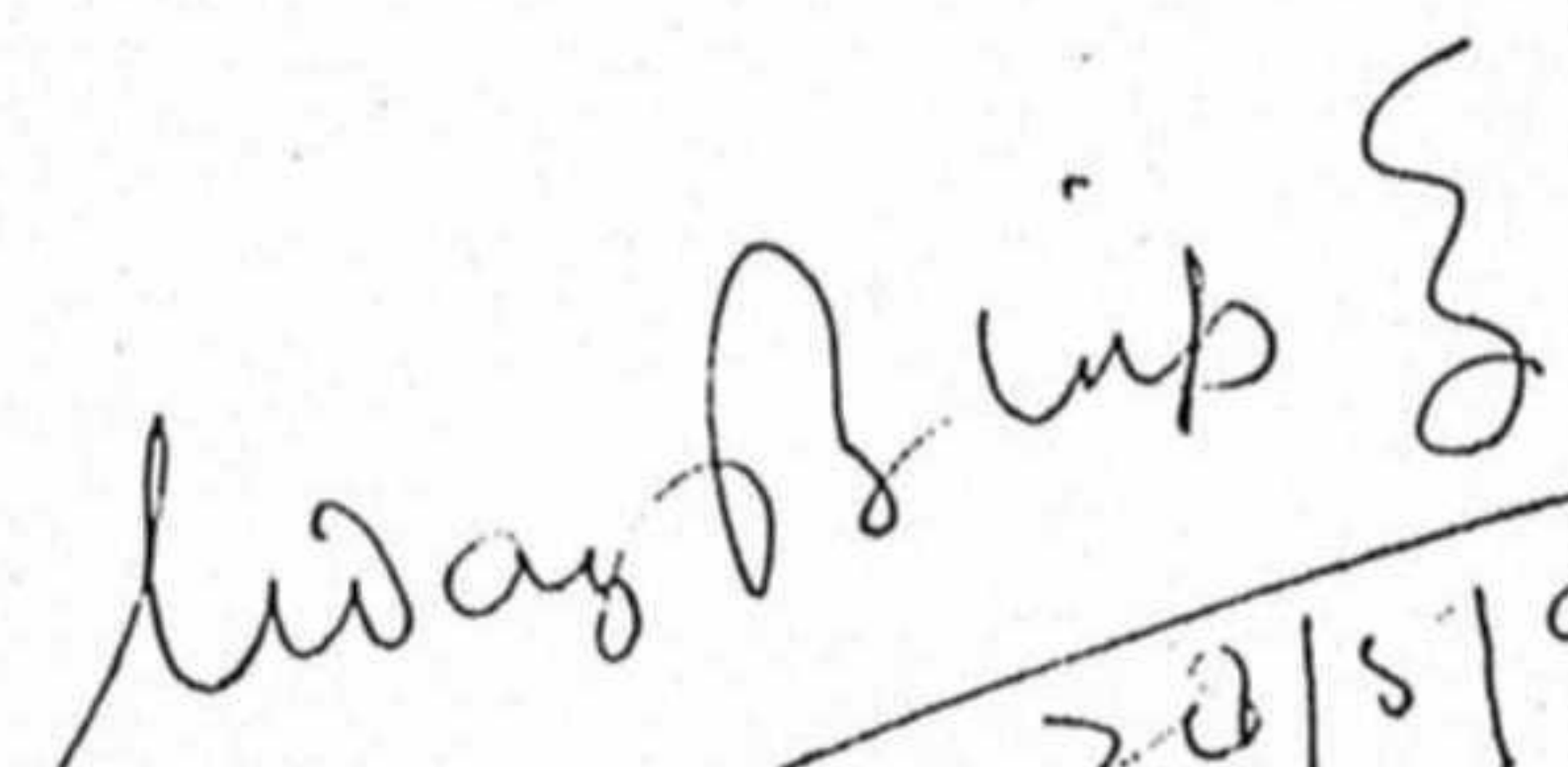
10. From the above evidence, it is the Finding of the Bench that 'Panika' caste/community is socially backward and should be included in the Central List of Backward Classes as a new entry in the areas other than where it is included in the List of Scheduled Tribes in the State of Madhya Pradesh as follows:-

"63. Panika(Except in the districts of Chhatarpur, Datia, Panna, Rewa, Satna, Shahdol, Sidhi and Tikamgarh where it is included in Scheduled Tribes List)"

'६३. पनिका(छतरपुर, दतिया, पन्ना, रीवा, सतना, शहडोल, सीधी और टीकमगढ़ जिलों को छोड़कर जहाँ पर अनुसूचित जनजाति में शामिल है)'


27.05.98
(SAHU AKSHAYA BHAI)


16.6.98
(NAVTEJ PUADHI)


20/5/99
(U.P. SINGH)

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P. S. KRISHNAN
Member Secretary
National Commission
for Backward Classes

V. ADVICE OF THE COMMISSION

11. The Commission considered and agreed in full with the above Findings of the Madhya Pradesh Bench and decided to tender following Advice to the Central Govt. in terms of section 9(1) of the NCBC Act 1993, for action by the Central Govt. under section 9(2) of the Act :-

"Panika" be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Madhya Pradesh at entry no. 63 with area restriction as follows :-

"63. Panika(except in the districts of Chhatarpur, Datia, Panna, Rewa, Satna, Shahdol, Sidhi and Tikamgarh where it is included in Scheduled Tribes List)"

'६३. पनिका(छतरपुर, दतिया, पन्ना, रीवा, सतना, शहडोल, सीधी और टीकमगढ़ जिलों को छोड़कर जहाँ पर अनुसूचित जनजाति में शामिल हैं)'

Kishan
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3/6/98

JUSTICE P. K. SHYAMSUNDAR
Chairperson
National Commission For
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