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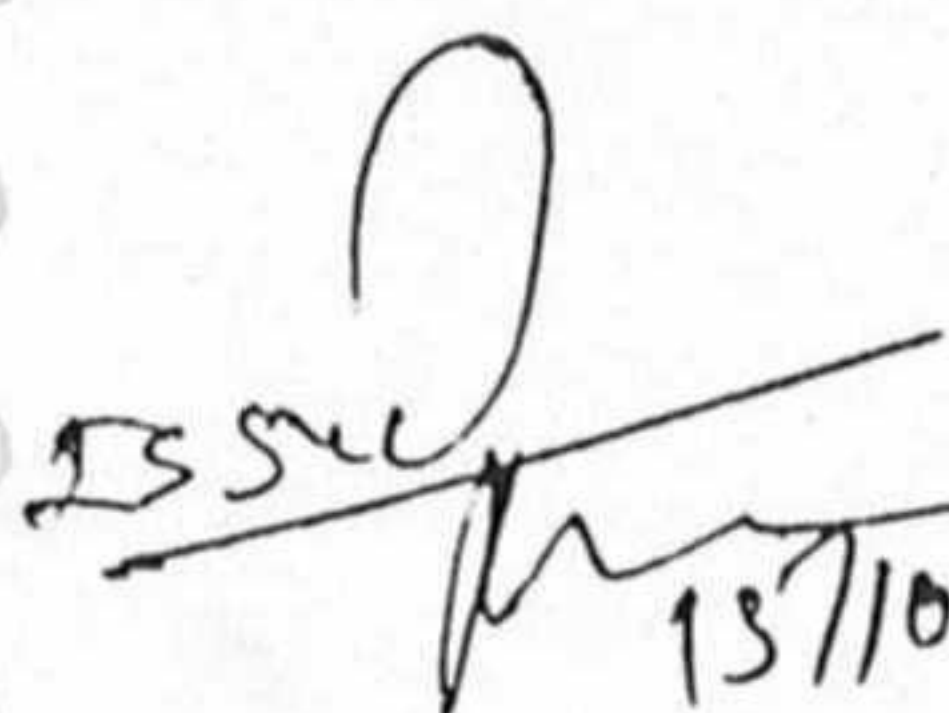
सदस्य-सचिव
राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग
भारत सरकार
नई दिल्ली - 110 066
MEMBER-SECRETARY
NATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR BACKWARD CLASSES
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW DELHI - 110 066

NCBC Advice No. 19 Orissa/98

15. 10. 1998

Dear Shri Manavalan,

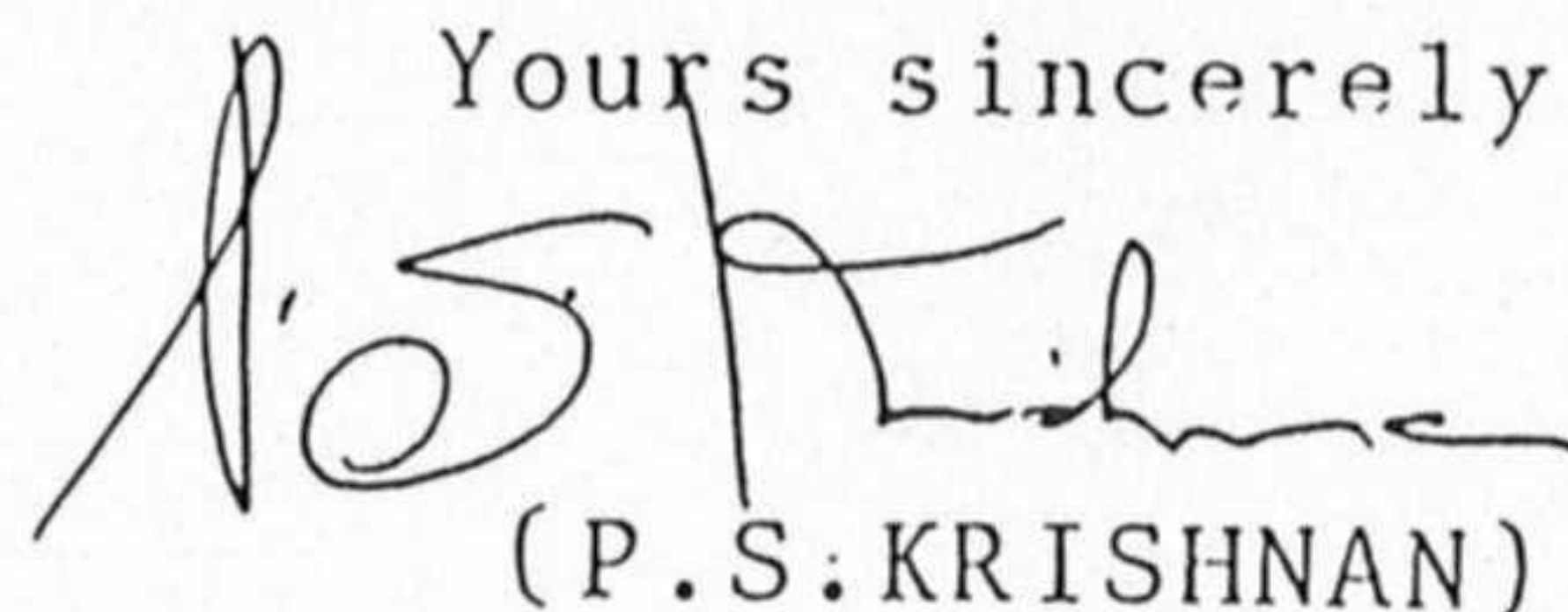
I am sending herewith the Advice of the National Commission for Backward Classes under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act for the Rejection of the Request for Inclusion of "Banka" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa, duly authenticated, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the Act.


15/10/98

Encl: As stated.

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

Yours sincerely


(P.S. KRISHNAN)

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NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

ORISSA BENCH

FINDINGS

Case: Request for inclusion of Banka Caste/Community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa.

Per Prof. U.P.Singh, Member

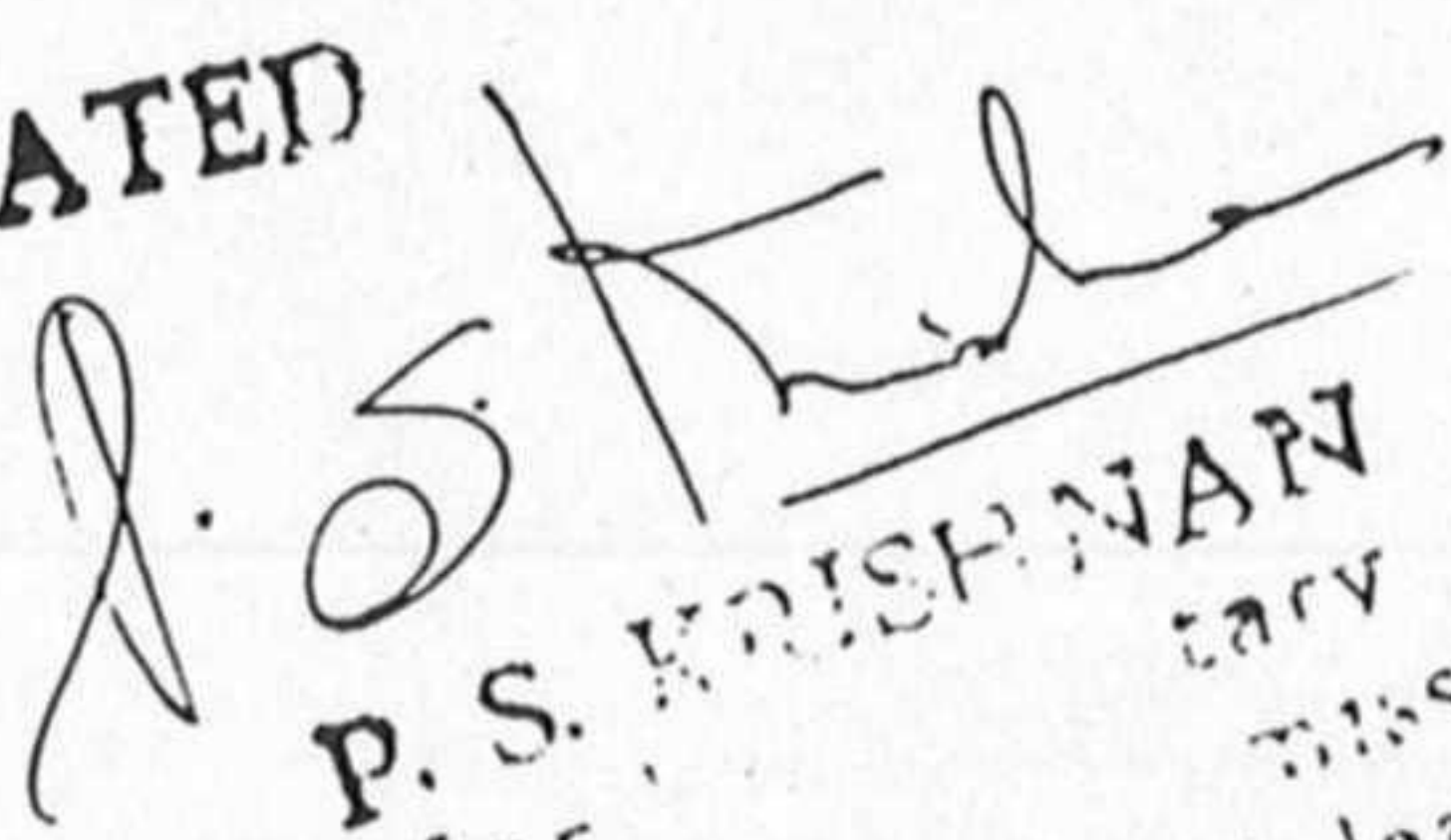
I Request

This case arises from the Request received in this commission from Shri Bikram Kishori Deo, Member of Orissa Legislative Assembly, Bhubaneswar, for inclusion of Banka caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa.

II Public Hearing

2. Member Orissa Bench of the Commission consisting of Hon'ble Members, Shri U.P.Singh, Shri Sahu Akshaya Bhai and Shri Navtej Puadhi held a Public Hearing A Three in respect of this caste/community at Bhubaneswar on 15.5.98. The State Government was represented by Shri R.B.Nayak; Director (OBC), Department of Welfare, and Shri M.R.Mishra, Member-Secretary, represented the State Commission for OBCs. The caste/community was represented by Shri Baidya Nath.

AUTHENTICATED


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

III Facts.

3. The 'Banka' caste has been included in the Mandal List as below.

"15. Banka"

4. The Government of Orissa, welfare Department vide Resolution No. 26118 dated 5-11-1996 on advice of Orissa State Commission for Backward Classes included Banka caste in the State List of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes. The entry reads as:-

"197. Banka"

5. In the request it is stated that the Banka caste which is predominant caste in kalahandi district is a backward caste. Previously the caste found place in the First Published O.B.C. list in the year 1950 at serial No. 5 of the Appendix-2 of Home Department, Govt. of Orissa, notification No. 76. A photocopy of the Appendix-2 has also been enclosed by them. Then again in the list of backward classes prepared by the Mandal Commission the caste was included. But in the State List of Backward Classes notified by the Orissa Government vide notification No 25455 dated 10th September, 1993, the caste did not find place.

6. The Banke Rajput Samaj, kalahandi has submitted, filled in questionnaire of NCBC. The information contained in the questionnaire is as below:-

- (i) Banka is the main caste and there is no sub-caste synonym of the caste.
- (ii) The population of the caste in the state is 60,000 concentrated in four districts namely Kalahandi(45,000), Koraput(7,000), Nawapara(5,000) and Bollangir(3,000).
- (iii) The caste/community is generally regarded as socially backward.

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Commission

- (iv) Agriculture is the main occupation on which the members of the caste/community mainly depend for livelihood. Which involve manual labour rendered for wages and for own land.
- (v) Women of the caste are engaged in agricultural labour for wages for their families 'livelihood'. Children of the caste are engaged in agricultural labour for supplementing their families' income.
- (vi) Seventy five percent of the population of the caste are landless manual labourers both in agriculture and non-agriculture. The adult members of the caste/community are engaged in:

(a) Agricultural labour for wage	50%
(b) Other manual labour for wage	40%
(c) Cultivation of own land	8%
(d) Other occupations	2%

- (vii) The literacy rate of the cast/community is 20 percent. Proportion of the matriculates of the caste/community in the district is 0.01 percent to the total population of the caste/community in the district. Number of graduates among the members of the caste/community in the district is 10 in 1985.

- (viii) The percentage of families living in Kaccha/Pucca houses in the districts, where this caste is found is as below:-

District	Kachcha houses	Pucca houses
(a) Kalahandi	95%	5%
(b) Nawapara	98%	2%
(c) Koraput	99%	1%
(d) Bolangir	99%	1%

- (ix) The number of posts in the services of the state government held by the members of the caste/community is as below:-

Group A/Class I	:	Nil	(year 1995)
Group B/Class II	:	Nil	(year 1995)
Group C/Class III	:	65	(Year 1995)
Group D/Class IV	:	35	(Year 1995)



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- (x) The main reasons on account of which the caste/community consider itself to be backward are economic under---development, educationally backward and socially looked down upon by the higher caste people.

7. At the public Hearing the representative of the caste/community stated that the traditional occupation of the caste is agriculture. The caste is socially, educationally and economically backward. About social status of the caste the representative stated that the status of the caste is same as Chasa and Paiko caste.

8. The first backward Classes Commission (Kaka Kalelker Commission) recommended the 'Banka' caste/community in the List of Other Backward Classes and considered the caste/community as most backward.

9. About the Banka caste/community E. Thurston writes as. "Banka (gum) - An exogamous sept of Motati Kapu." ('Caste and Tribes of Southern India by Edgar Thurston & K. Rngachari, Vo., -I, Asian Educational services, New Delhi, Madras Reprint 1993, first published in 1909, p.147). In Volume V about 'Motati' Thurston writes 'Motati-A sub-division of kapu' (ibid p.80).

The ethnographic account of the 'Kapu' caste given by Thurston in Volum III of the book is as "The Kapus or Reddis are the largest caste in the Madras Presidency, numbering more than two millions, and are the great caste of cultivators, farmers, and squireens in the Telugu country. In the Gazetteer of Anantapur they are described as being the great land-holding body in the Telugu districts, who are held in much respect as substantial, steady-going yeomen, and next to the Brahmans are the leaders of Hindu Society.-----"
"The Term Kapu," Mr H.A. Stuart writes (Madras census report 1891), "means a watchman, and Reddi means a king. The kapus or Reddis (Ratti) appear to have been a powerful Dravidian tribe in the early centuries of the christian era, for they have left traces of their presence at various places in almost every part of India-----"
-----" (ibid pp. 222-223).

"The Kapus are said to have originally dwelt in Ayodhya. During the reign of Bharata, one Pillala Mari Reddi and his sons deceived the king by appropriating all the grain to themselves-----"

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Russell and Hira Lal has given the description about the Banka cast in their book 'The Tribes and castes of the central Provinces of India' (Originally published by Macmillan and co. Limited, London, 1916. Reprinted by Asian Educational Services, New Delhi 1993 vol I, p. 345) as, "A small caste found principally in the kalahandi state which now forms part of Bengal. The caste was formed from military service like the Khandaits, Paiks and Marathas, and some families bear the names of different castes, as Brahman Banka, Kumhar Banka, and so on. They were formerly notorious freebooters, but have now settled down to cultivation. Each man, however, still carries a sword or knife on his person, and in kalahandi they are permitted to do this without taking out a licence". Justice N.K. Das Commission in its report on 28.6.93 identified 181 castes as socially and Educationally Backward for the state of orissa in place of 224 castes contained in the list of OBCs in the Mandal Commission Report. The State Govt. accepted the recommendation of Das Commission and the list of 181 castes was published wide Tribal Welfare Deptt. resolution No. 25455-T.W. dt. 10-9-93 in the orissa Gazette dt. 1-10-93. Therefore Banka caste/community did not find place in the said list of OBCs. The reason of not including the Banka caste in the list of OBCs by the Commission (Report of Commission of Enquiry regarding Mandal Commission Report by Justice N.K.Das, P. 39 Para 24.4) was given as "There is no information regarding their ethnic status and their places of habitation. After due research by the Harijan & Tribal Training cum Research Institute could not find their ethnic origin. This commission also on enquiry could not find out their ethnic origin."

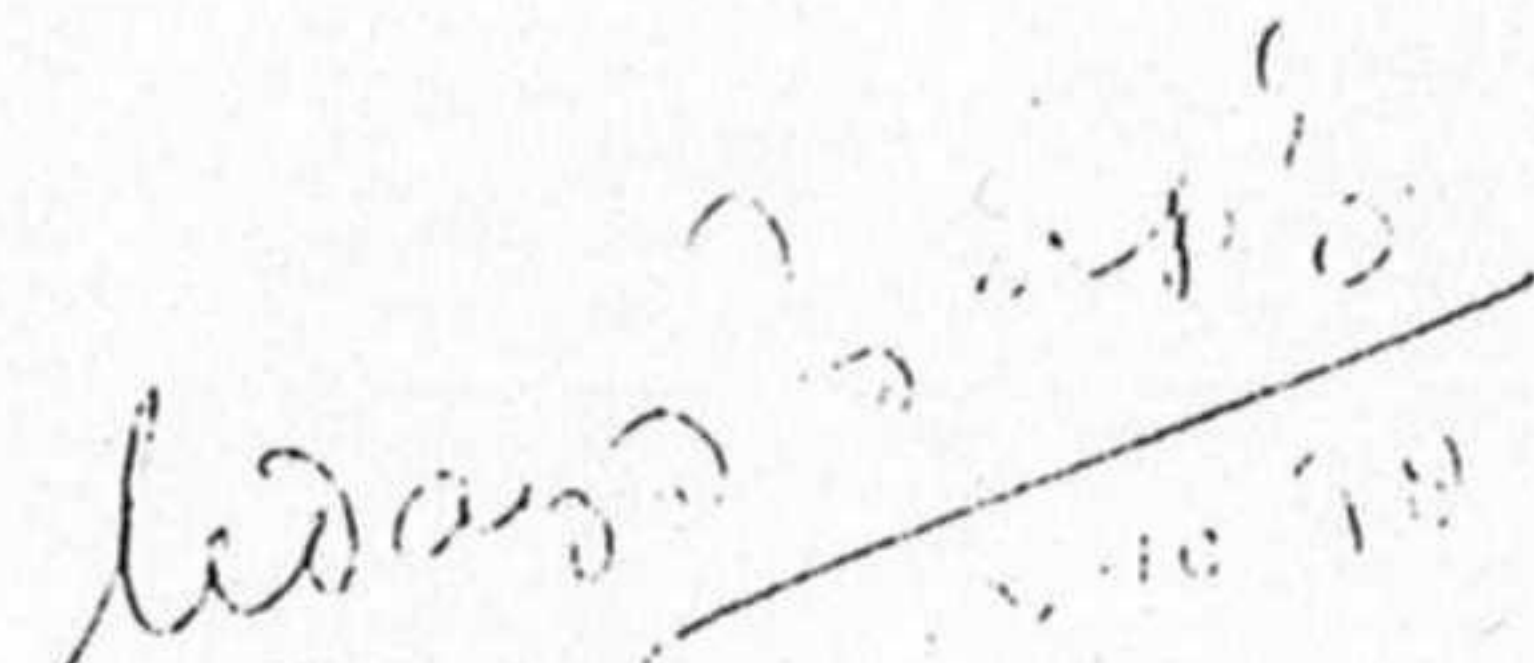
Findings

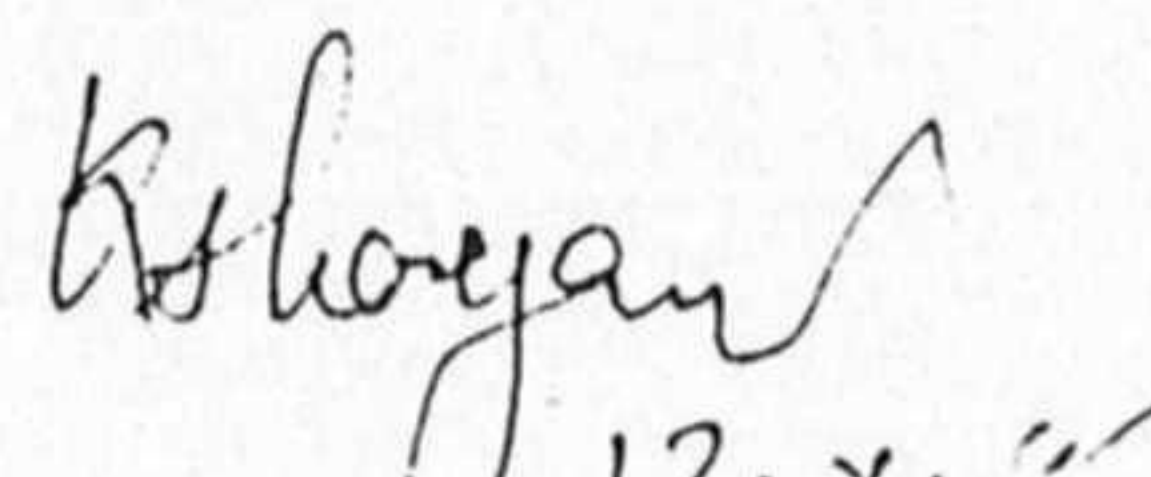
From the above facts and evidence it is the finding of the Bench that the 'Banka' is an exogamous sept of Telugu caste Kapu i.e. Reddy which originally belong to kapu, which does not find place in the Central or State List of Backward Classes for Andhra Pradesh. The Request for inclusion of 'Banka' caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa be rejected as it is not socially backward.

ARTICLE 7 CATF

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As one of the member of the Bench, Shri Navtej ~~Shri~~ unfortunately passed away on 16.08.1998, subsequent to the public hearing the Findings are signed only by two Members, but the findings represent the conclusion jointly arrived at by all three Members.


(U.P. Singh)


13. X. 98
(Sahu Akshaya Bhai)


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

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V Advice of the Commission

The Commission considered and agreed in full with the above Findings of the Orissa Bench and decided to tender the following Advice to the Central Government in terms of Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act, 1993 for action by the Government under Section 9(2) of the Act:-

The request for inclusion of 'Banka' caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa be rejected as it is not socially backward.

On account of the unfortunate demise of one of the Members Shri Navtej Puadhi on 16-8-1998, this unanimous Advice of the Commission does not bear the signature of that Member. The validity of the Advice, notwithstanding the vacancy caused by the demise of the aforesaid Member, is protected by Section 7 of the NCBC Act, 1993.

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10.10.98

K. Jayaram
13.X.98

P. C. Agarwal
13.10.98

P. S. Krishnan
13.X.98

AUTHENTICATED

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