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सदस्य मंत्रालय
संघीय पिछड़ा आयोग
नया दिल्ली
पिन कोड 110 066MEMBER SECRETARY
NATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR BACKWARD CLASSES
NEW DELHI-110 066

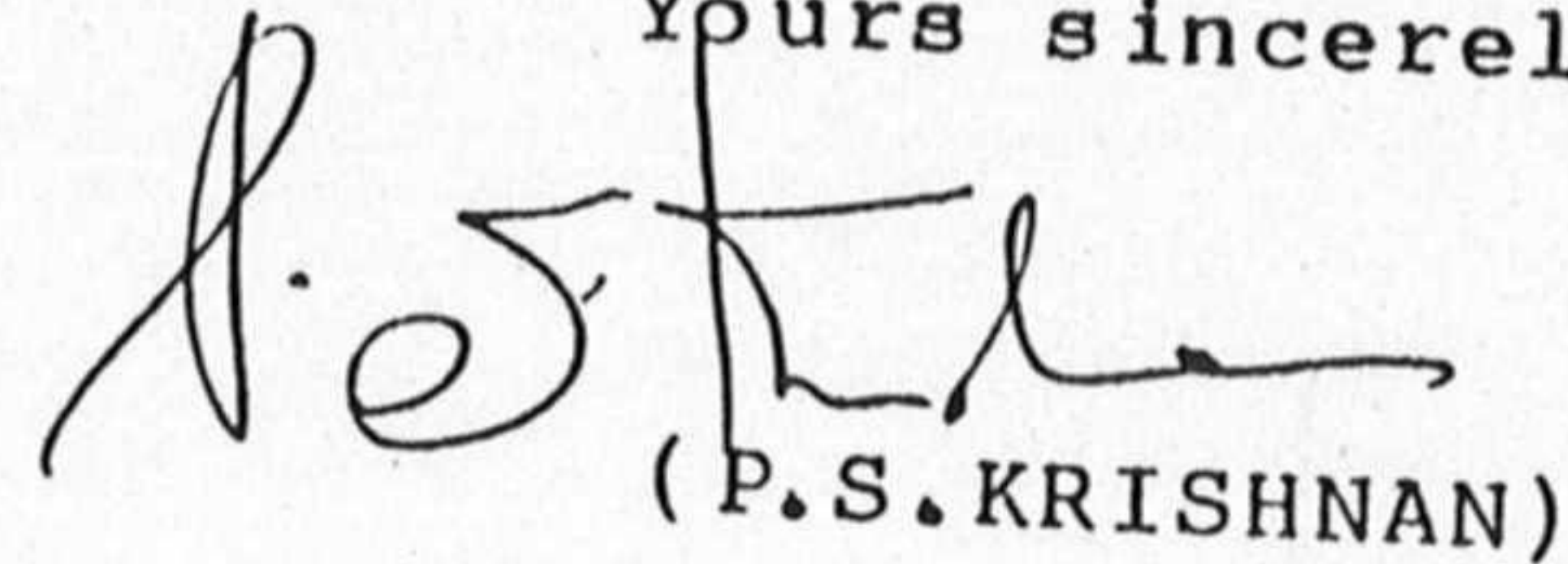
NCBC Advice No. Tripura 19/99

30.07.99

Dear Smt. Das,

I am sending herewith the Advice of the National Commission for Backward Classes under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act for the Inclusion of "Rajbhar" as a synonym of "Bhar" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Tripura, duly authenticated, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the Act.

Yours sincerely


(P.S. KRISHNAN)

Encl: As stated.

Smt. Asha Das
Secretary to Govt. of India
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Shastri Bhavan
NEW DELHI

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

TRIPURA BENCH

FINDINGS

Case: Request for Inclusion of "Rajbhar" as a synonym of "Bhar" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Tripura

Per Justice P.K. Shyamsundar, Chairperson

I. Request

The Government of Tripura vide their letter No. 10408/F.6-74/SCW&OBC/STAT/94 dated 19.4.95 to this Commission has, inter alia, requested that "Rajbhar", a synonym of "Bhar", be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Tripura along with the existing entry "Bhar" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Tripura. A similar Request has also been received from OBC Federation, Tripura State Committee, Agartala.

II. Public Hearing

2. The two-Member Tripura Bench of the NCBC consisting of Hon'ble Justice P.K. Shyamsunder, Chairperson and Shri P.S. Krishnan, Hon'ble Member-Secretary held a Public Hearing on 6.4.98 at Agartala in respect of this Request. At the Public Hearing the State Government was represented by Shri S.C. Das, Secretary SC&ST Welfare Department and other officials. Shri K.R. Das, Chairperson, Shri S. Bhowmik, Member-Secretary and Shri Matilal Sarkar, Member of Tripura State Backward Classes Commission were also present at the

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Member Secretary
National Commission
for Backward Classes

Public Hearing and gave valuable information. No member or representative of the Rajbhar community under consideration appeared before the Bench.

III. Facts

3. "Bhar, Rajbhar" is included in the List of Backward Classes issued by the Govt. of Tripura vide Notification No. F.6-74/SCW/STAT/94/4859-501 dated 8.3.1995, as follows:-

"6. Bhar, Rajbhar"

Mandal Commission's List of BCs for Tripura contains the entry "16. Bhar". "Rajbhar" is not included in the Mandal Commission's List. The Central List of Backward Classes for Tripura notified by the Government of India in 1994 contains the entry "5. Bhar", and not "Rajbhar".

4. The State Government in its letter of Request, has stated that the State List issued was prepared on the basis of the Advice of the State Backward Classes Commission. The State Government has also furnished a copy of the Minutes of the 20th Meeting of the State Commission held on 9-11-94 wherein it is recorded regarding "Rajbhar" as follows:-

"Rajbhar is a synonym of Bhar community. Rajbhar is included as OBC by the Mandal Commission in the State of Bihar at Sl. No. 141. Rajbhar, may, therefore, be included along with Bhar at Sl.No. 5 of the Cenral List".

5. The State Government has also forwarded the NCBC's Questionnaire filled up by Shri Mahadev Bhar, Village Seventy Colony, Narsinghar, P.O. Airport, Block Moharpur, West Tripura. It is stated in the Questionnaire that "Bhar" is also known as "Rajbhar" in Tripura. The main occupation of

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the community is given in the Questionnaire as "tea garden labourers". It is also mentioned that some members of the community also earn their livelihood by agriculture. The caste/community, in terms of the caste system, is stated to be associated with "tea garden work".

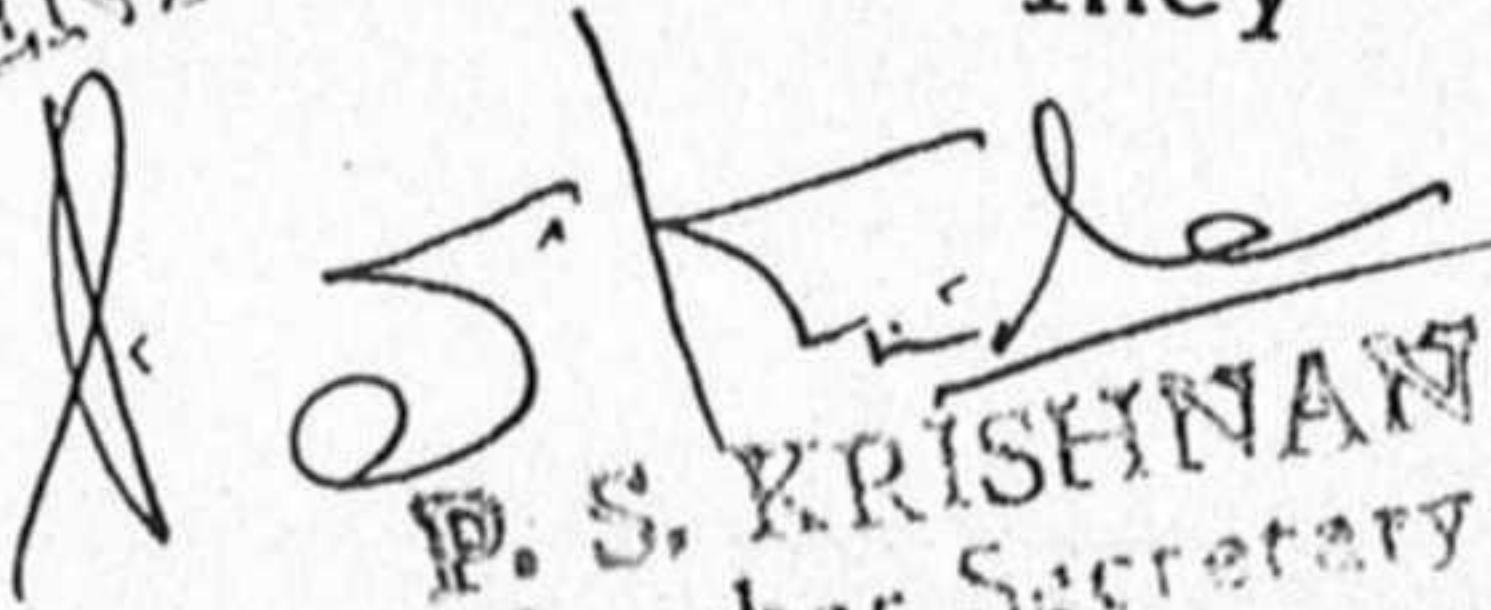
6. According to Risley ('The Tribes and Castes of Bengal', Firma Mukhopadhyaya, Calcutta, 1981, first edition 1891) "Rajbhar" is "an up-country caste engaged in Bengal as gardeners and cowherds. They claim to be a distinct caste from the Bhars, with whom they do not eat or intermarry. In the North-Western Provinces they are engaged purely in agricultural pursuits, and rank socially with the Kurmis and Koiris." Regarding "Bhar", Risley writes as follows:-

"Bhar, a small Dravidian caste of Western Bengal and Chota Nagpur, most of whom are cultivators, while a few occupy the position of hereditary personal servants to the Rsxs? hj Pachete. The Bhars are divided into two sub-castes, Maghaya and Bengali, the members of which do not intermarry. Their sections show a curious mixture of the totemistic and eponymous types, which may perhaps indicate that the caste is undergoing the process of gradual conversion to Hinduism and incorporation into the regular caste system.....

.....the Bhars of Behar, a Hinduised branch of the original stock, ... disown all connection with the Bhars of Western Bengal, and claim affinity with the Bhars of the North-Western Provinces....."

7. W. Crooke ('The Tribes and Castes of North Western India', Vol. II, Cosmo Publications, Delhi, 1974, Originally published under the title 'The Tribes and Castes of the North-Western Province & Oudh, Calcutta, 1896), describes "Bhar" as a "caste of apparently Dravidian origin found in the eastern parts of the United Provinces". He further writes as follows:-

"They are also known as Rajbhar, Bharat, and

ATTESTED

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 for Backward Classes

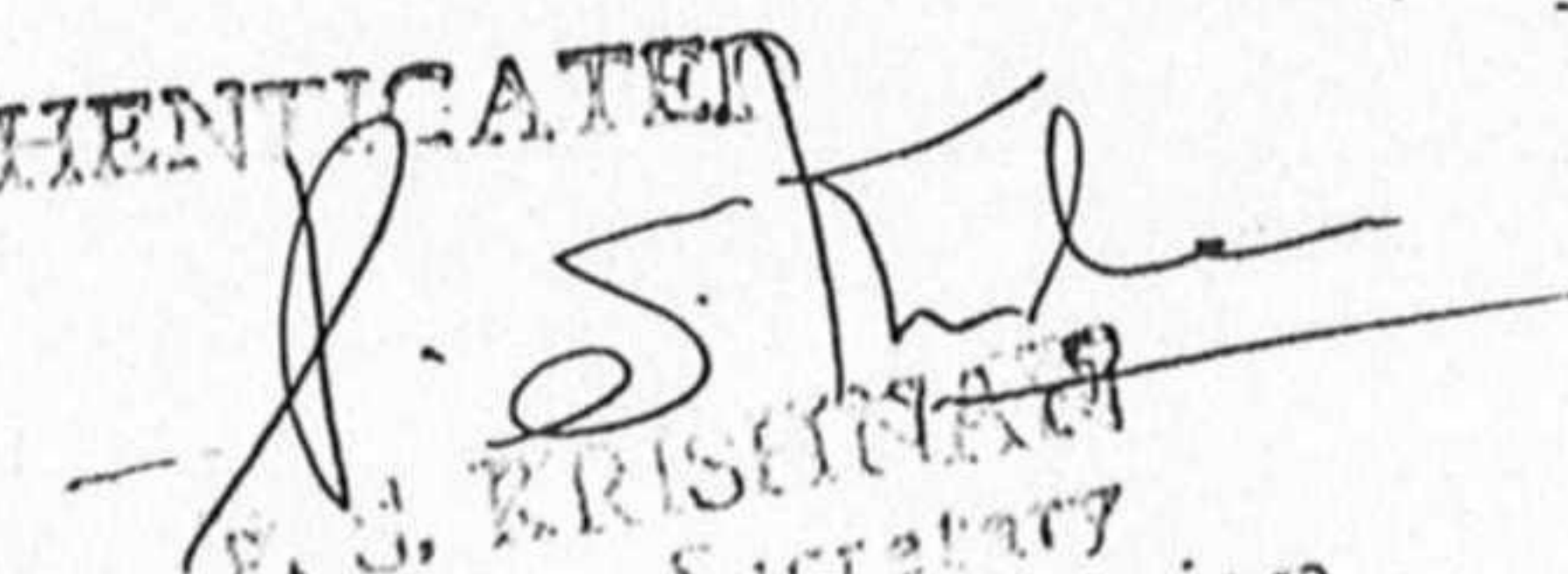
Bharpattwa.... They are usually employed as day-labourers and ploughmen. A few are tenants without occupancy rights. Some of them have rather equivocal reputation. They are occasionally burglars and field thieves, and they have been known to combine for road robbery and dacoity....."

8. During the Public Hearing the Bench learnt from the State Govt./State Commission representatives that "Bhar, Rajbhar" community included in the State List is originally of migrants from Bihar. During the Public Hearing some persons representing All Tripura Rajbhar Kalyan Samiti appeared before the Bench but they turned out to be of a different caste/community with the same name as "Rajbhar", who are, according to them, originally palki-bearers and now mostly agricultural labourers. They were advised by the Bench to first go to the State Commission for inclusion of their caste/community in the State List.

9. As stated by the State Commission, "Rajbhar" has been included in the Mandal Commission's List for Bihar at entry no. 141. "Rajbhar" has also been included in the State and Central Lists of BCs for Bihar. The NCBC has tendered Advice to the Central Government for the inclusion of "Bhar, Rajbhar" in the Central Lists of BCs for Punjab (Advice No. 2 Punjab/97 dated 18.8.97) and Chandigarh (Advice No. 1 Chandigarh dated 18.8.97).

IV. Findings

10. As adverted to by the State Government and State Commission representatives, "Bhar" caste/community included in the State and Central List of BCs for Tripura represent immigrants from Bihar. In view of this, Crooke's attestation that Bhars are also known as Rajbhar is adequate proof in support of the Request for Inclusion of "Rajbhar" as a

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"5. Bhar, Rajbhar"

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27.7.99

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

"Rajbhar" be included as a synonym of "Bhar" at entry

CERTIFICATED

P. J. Kelly

F. J. RISENMAN
Member Secretary
National Commission
for the Handicapped

no. 5 in the Central List of Backward Classes for Tripura, and the amended entry no. 5 in the Central List of BCs for Tripura be read as follows:-

"5. Bhar, Rajbhar"

P. U. Secretary
27.7.99

P. S. Thakur

27.7.99

Adang Buru
28.7.99

P. U. Secretary
30/7/99

Kshayam
30.07.99

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Member Secretary
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for Backward Classes