

सदस्य-सचिव
राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग

भारत सरकार

त्रिकूट-१, भीकाएजी कामा प्लेस, नई दिल्ली - ११००६६

Member - Secretary

National Commission for Backward Classes

Government of India

Trikoot-1, Bhikaiji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110066

स. कृष्णन्
P. S. KRISHNAN
TEL. : 6183190

26. 03. 1998

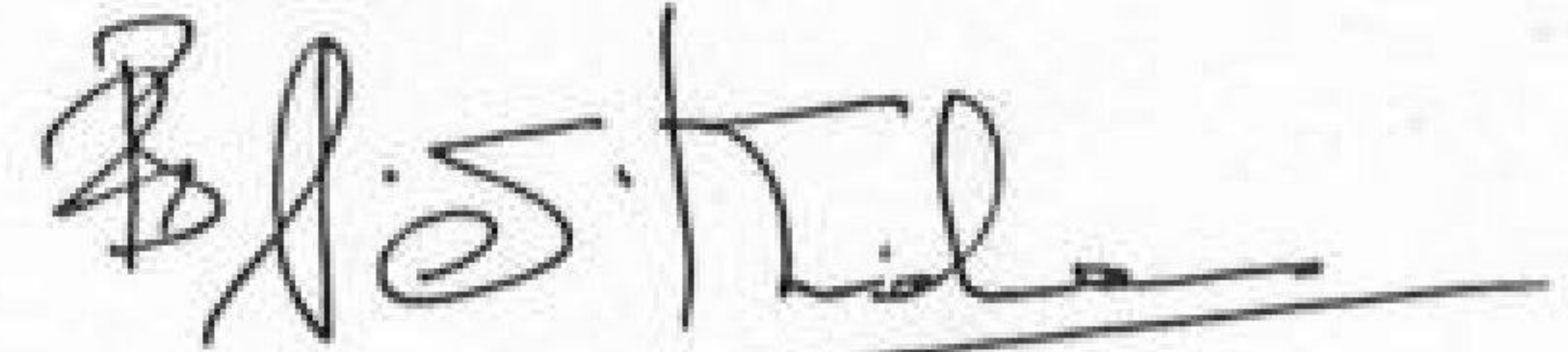
DO NCBC Advice No. West Bengal 34/98

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 inclusion of 'Turha' caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the Act.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely



(P.S. KRISHNAN)

Encl: As stated

Shri D.K. Manavalan
Secretary to Govt. of India
Ministry of Welfare
Shastri Bhavan
NEW DELHI

c/c

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

WEST BENGAL BENCH

FINDINGS

Case:- Request for inclusion of "Turha" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classe for West Bengal.

Per Shri U.P. Singh, Member

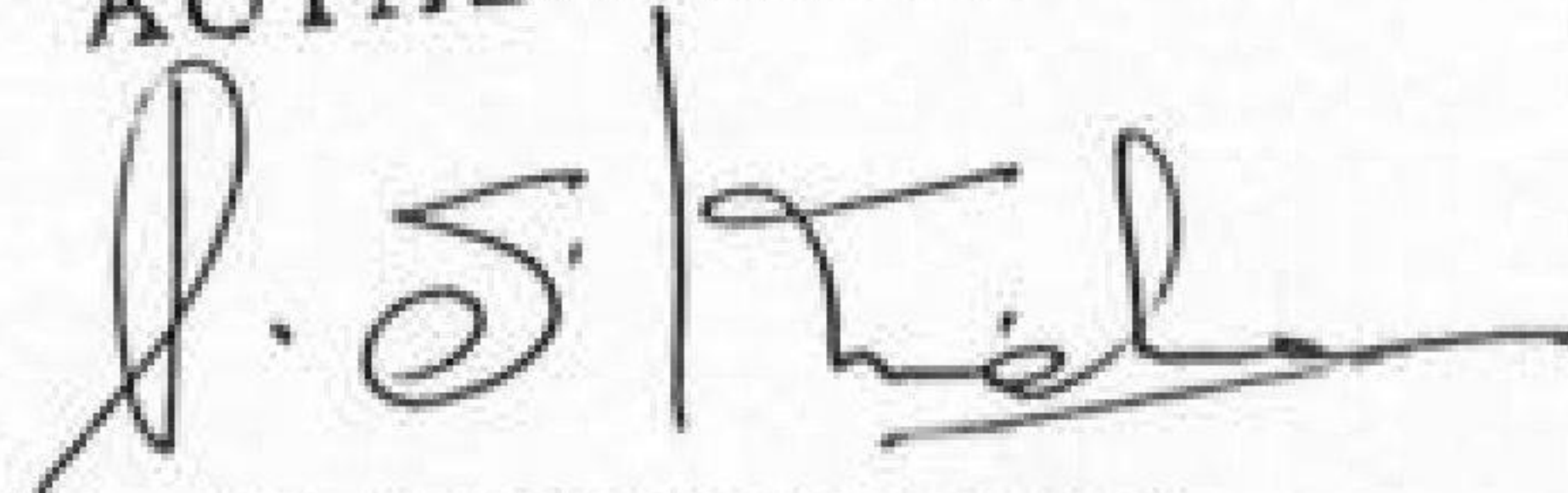
I. Request

This case arises from the Request received in this Commission from Dr. Ambika Prasad, President, All India Turha Bikash Sangh, Calcutta. Shri Rajendra Prasad Shaw, Shri Lal Bahadur Shaw and others from Akhil Bhartiya Turha Bikash Sangh, Calcutta submitted the filled up NCBC's Questionnaire during the Public Hearing.

II. Public Hearing

2. The Two Member West Bengal Bench of the Commission consisting of Hon'ble Members, Shri U.P. Singh and Shri Sahu Akshaya Bhai held a Public Hearing at Calcutta on 22.9.1997 in respect of this case. At the Public Hearing, the State Govt. was represented by Shri S.B. Mondal, Special Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal, Scheduled Castes & Tribes Welfare Deptt., Calcutta, Shri M.K. Chaudhary, Director, Cultural and Research Institute, Calcutta and Shri Amit Kumar Dutta, Dy. Director, Scheduled Castes & Tribes Welfare Department, Govt. of West Bengal, Calcutta. The caste/community was represented by the following individuals from Akhil Bhartiya Turha Bikas Sangh, Calcutta :-

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Member Secretary

1. Dr. Ambika Prasad, President,
2. Shri Rajendra Prasad Shaw,
3. Shri Lal Bahadur Shaw,
4. Shri Mohan Shaw and others.

III. Facts

3. The Mandal List included the "Turha" caste/community as follows:-

"175. Turha"

The State Govt. of West Bengal had no list of Backward Classes till after the Supreme Court Judgement in the Mandal Case delivered on 16th November, 1992. For this reason, the Expert Committee on Backward Classes could not, on the basis of the principle of commonality, recommend a Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal as it could do for 14 other States, which already had their respective lists of Backward Classes, and therefore the Central Govt. also could not issue a Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal in 1993. The Govt. of West Bengal issued its first list of Backward Classes by its Notification No. 346-TW/EC/M-6/82(I), dated 13th July, 1994 in the Calcutta Gazette of the same date, which included 14 entries. The Government of India, Ministry of Welfare, by its Notification No.163, dated 19.10.1994, published in the Gazette of India of 20.10.1994, issued a common list of OBCs for West Bengal, which consisted of the same 14 castes/communities.

4. The Government of West Bengal issued its second instalment of Backward Classes consisting of 12 castes/communities by its Notification No.705-TW/EC/M-6/82(I), dated 13th December, 1994 in the Calcutta Gazette of the same date, third instalment of 3 castes/communities was issued by

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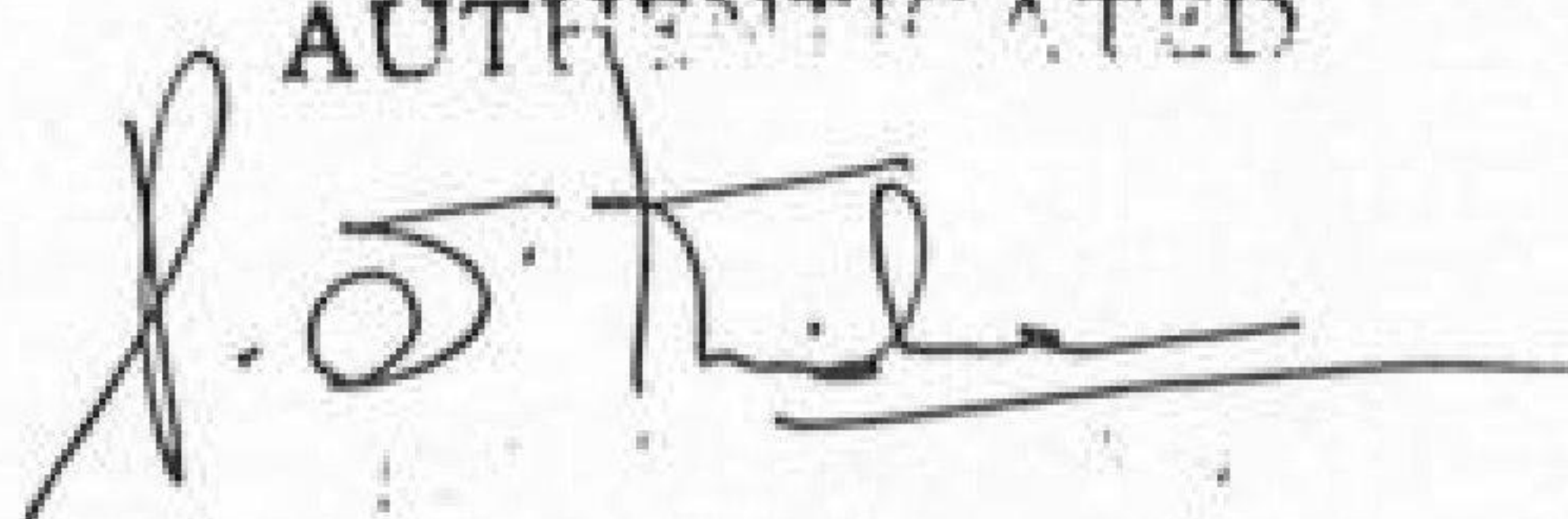
its Notification No.370-TW/EC/M-6/82(I), dated 12th May, 1995, published in Calcutta Gazette of the same date, fourth instalment of 9 Backward Classes by its Notification No.1179-TW/EC/M-6/82(I), dated 1st December, 1995, published in the Calcutta Gazette of the same date and fifth instalment of 6 castes/communities by its Notification No.183-TW/EC/M-6/82(I), dated 8th March, 1996, published in Calcutta Gazette of the same date. The State Govt. of West Bengal has also issued its sixth instalment of 8 Backward Classes by its Notification No.93-TW/EC/M-6/82(I), dated 11th February, 1997 including 'Turha' at entry No.2, which reads as follows:-

"2. Turha"

5. Dr. Ambika Prasad, President, Akhil Bhartiya Turha Bikash Sangh, Calcutta, who appeared before the Bench submitted that their old occupation was selling of vegetables and fishes and are still engaged in that occupation. According to him 200 years ago their forefathers used to catch and sell fishes and also engaged in other water connected jobs. It is an endogamic group separate from any synonym caste. He concurred the Risley's account of the caste to blow horn. He stated that the caste/community is below 'Bhar', which has already been included in sixth State List of Backward Classes at entry No.3, equal to 'Nonia' caste/community and above 'Rangwa, Dhobi, Teli and Kanu' castes/communities.

6. Shri Rajendra Prasad Shaw from Akhil Bhartiya Turha Bikash Sangh, Calcutta submitted the filled up NCBC's Questionnaire. Data given in the NCBC Questionnaire are based on facts collected by branch offices of the Sangh. According to the information in the NCBC Questionnaire "Turha" is the main caste and is also known by the name of "Turaha", "Turaiya" and "Turaiha". The approximate population of the

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: 1 :

caste/community is 25,000 spread in 17 districts of the State which are as follows.

1. Darjeeling	4,023
2. Jalpaigudi	837
3. Cooch Behar	815
4. Maldah	900
5. West Dinajpur	773
6. Burdwan	2,500
7. Purulia	970
8. Birbhum	350
9. Midnapur	905
10. Hooghly	1697
11. Bankura	650
12. Greater Calcutta	3050
13. 24-Parganas North	3505
14. 24-Parganas South	1507
15. Nodia	850
16. Murshidabad	375
17. Howrah	1,300

Total: 25,007

The caste/community is generally regarded as a socially backward because they are educationally, economically and socially backward. They find improvement in conditions on these aspects in last twenty years. The caste considers Kahar & Bhar castes immediately higher to them in caste hierarchy and Sukli & Rangwa more or less at the same level. The members of the caste/community mainly depend for livelihood on vegetable and fish selling which is non-agricultural and involve manual labour for own work. The women as well as children of the caste/community, as a general practice, are, for their own or for their family's livelihood or for supplementing their family's low income, engaged in agricultural and non-agricultural labour for wage. 95 per cent

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population of the caste/community are landless manual labourers. The occupation of the caste/community of vegetable and fish selling and manual labour is stated to be considered as lowly and undignified.

7. 95 percent families of the caste/community are stated to be living in Kachha houses and 5 per cent live in Pacca houses. The literacy rate of the caste/community reported 10 percent during 1996. The nubmer of matriculates (or equivalent High School Examination) among the members of the caste/community is stated as 310 approximately including 60 women and aproximately 75 graduates including 10 women. The profession/employment position of the caste/community is mentioned as follows:-

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 1. Doctor | - 1 |
| 2. Lawyer | - 2 |
| 3. Engineers & Architects | - 2 |

State Govt. Services

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 4. Class III | - 30 Approx. |
| 5. Class IV | -100 Approx. |

Central Govt. Services

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 6. Group 'C' | - 25 Approx. |
| 7. Group 'D' | - 40 Approx. |

As regards representation of the caste/community in Group 'A' and Group 'B' services of the State as well as Central Govt. is reported 'Nil'.

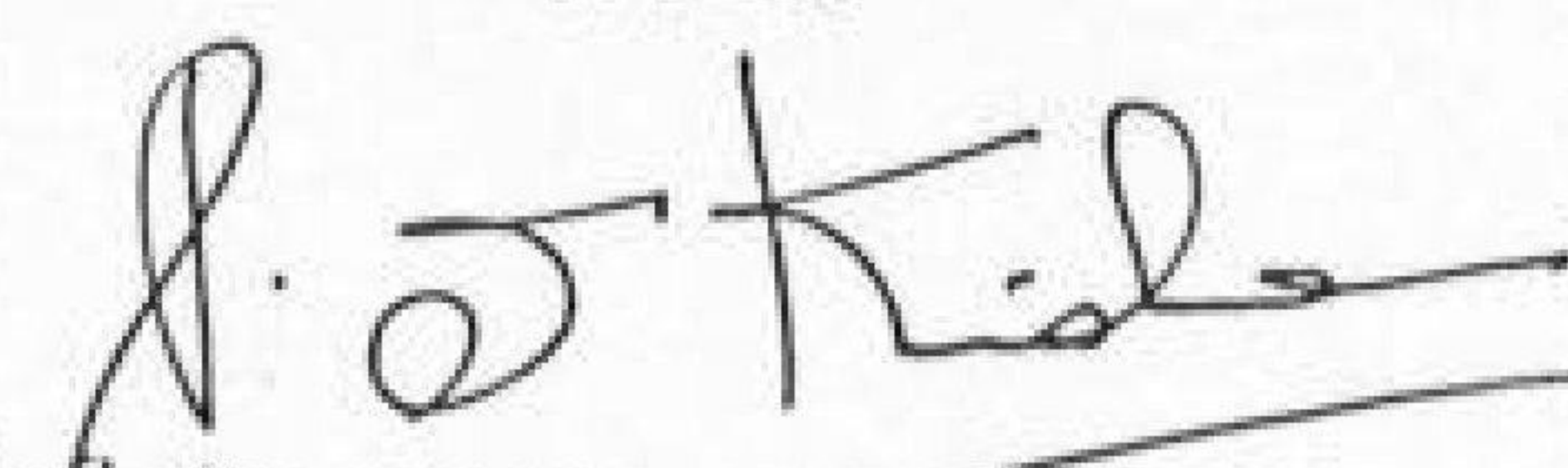
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8. The Sangh stated that the "Turha" caste/community has been included as a backward caste in the Central List of Backward Classes for Bihar and Madhya Pradesh and as a Scheduled Caste in Uttar Pradesh. This fact has been confirmed from these lists. The relevant entries in respect of the caste/community in the Central Lists of Backward Classes for Bihar and Madhya Pradesh have been mentioned as follows:-

S.No.	Name of the List	Entry No.	Name of the caste/ community
(i)	<u>Central list</u>		
	(a) Bihar	49	Turha
	(b) Madhya Pradesh	11	Dhimar/Dhimer Bhoj Kahar Dhiwar, Mallah Nawda, Navda Turaha Kewat (Raekwar)
ii)	<u>Scheduled Castes List</u>		
	(a) Uttar Pradesh	66	Turaiha

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 Member Secretary
 National Commission
 for Backward Classes

9. Ethnographic literature as contained in the H.H. Risley's book "The Tribes and Castes of Bengal - Ethnographic Glossary" (Firma Mukhopadhyay, Calcutta, India, 1981, Reprint, 1st Edition, Calcutta, 1891, Vol. II, p. 333) describes Turaha, Turha as follows:

Turaha, Turha : A sub-caste of Kahars who carry palanquins, sell fish and fresh fruits and cultivate; a sub-caste of Nunias.

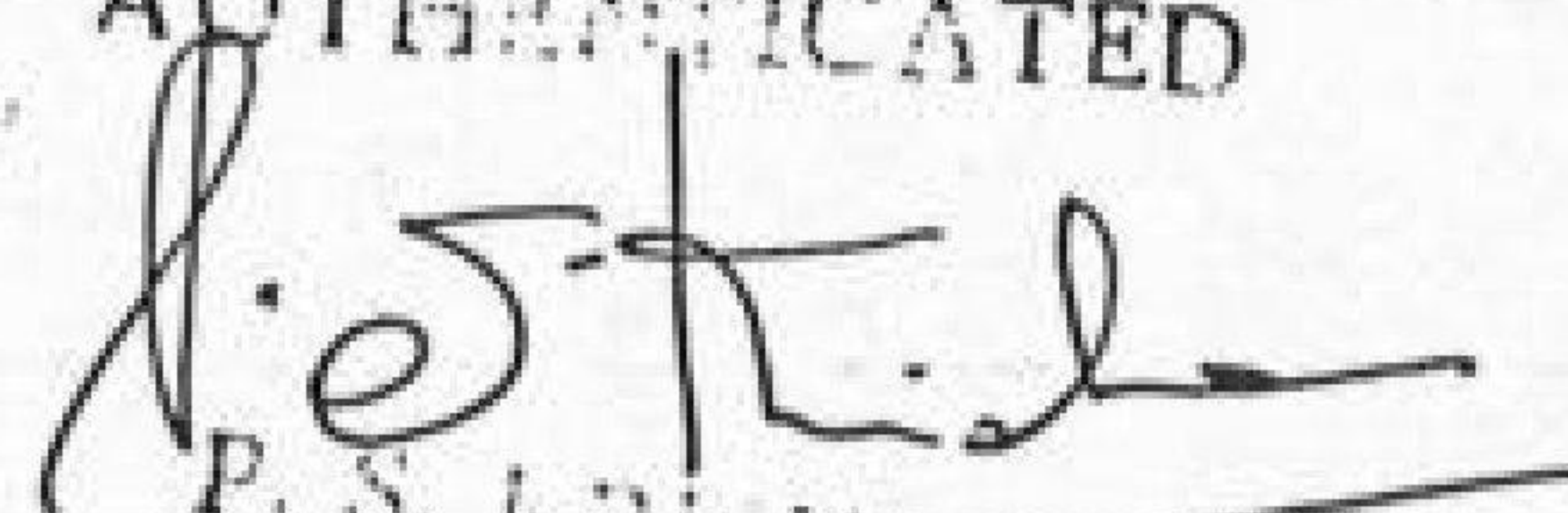
Turaha : A low caste who blow horns and play on flutes.

Turha : Players on the wind instrument called turhi.

10. The Kaka Kalelkar Commission has also recommended their inclusion in the list of Backward Classes for West Bengal at entry No.104 and their occupation as "cultivators".

11. Those present during the Public Hearing, who were from different sections of society, not only did not object to the proposed inclusion of the "Turha" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal, but also supported it.

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P. S. K. PRADHAN
Member Secretary
National Commission
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IV. Findings

12. From the above evidence it is Finding of the Bench that the "Turha" caste/community is a socially and Educationally backward class and it should therefore be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal at entry No.40 as follows:-

"32. Turha"

Ashaya
02.03.98

(SAHU AKSHAYA BHAI)

U.P. Singh
26.2.98

(U.P. SINGH)

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

V. Advice of the Commission

13. The Commission considered and agreed in full with the above findings of the West Bengal Bench and decided to tender the following Advice to Central Government under section 9(1) of the NCBC Act, 1993 for action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the Act:-

"Turha" should be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal at entry no. 40 as follows:-

"32. Turha"

Adhikary
02.03.98

Indira Prasad
26.2.98

Arjun Kumar
2.3.98

A. S. Kishor
25.3.98

M. S. Sengupta
4/3/98

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A. S. Kishor

for the Commission
for Backward Classes