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सदस्य-सचिव
राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग

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भारत सरकार
त्रिकूट-१, भीकाजी कामा प्लेस, नई दिल्ली - ११००६६

Member - Secretary
National Commission for Backward Classes
Government of India
Trikool - 1, Bhikaiji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110 066

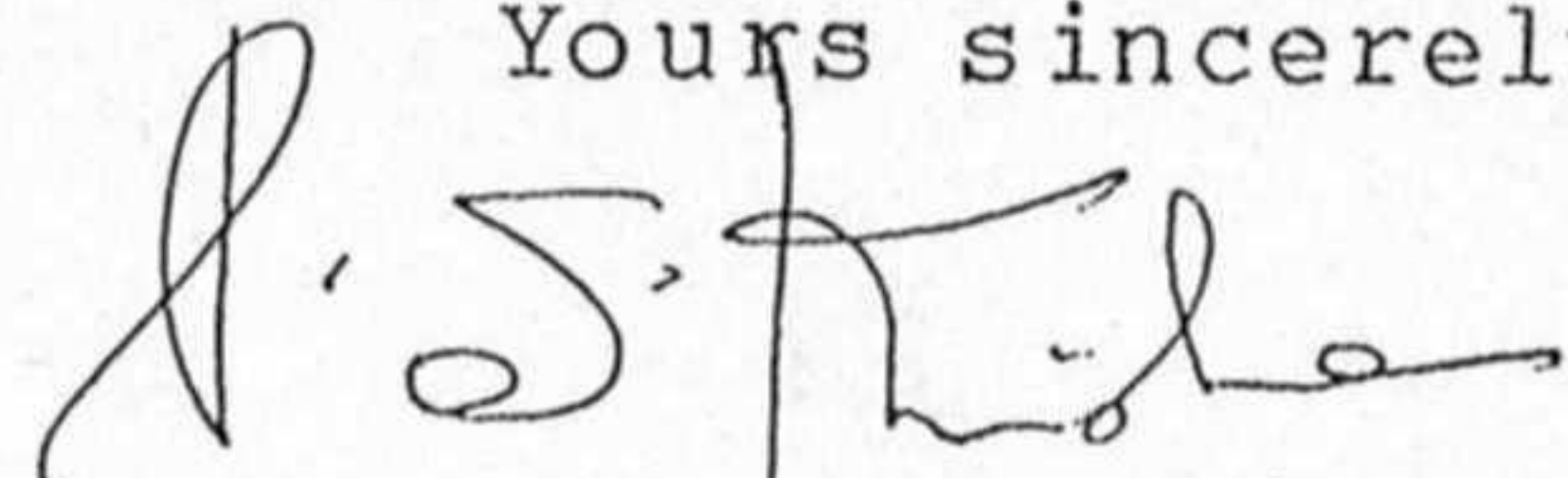
NCBC Advice No. Tripura 20/99

03. 08. 1999

Dear Smt. Das,

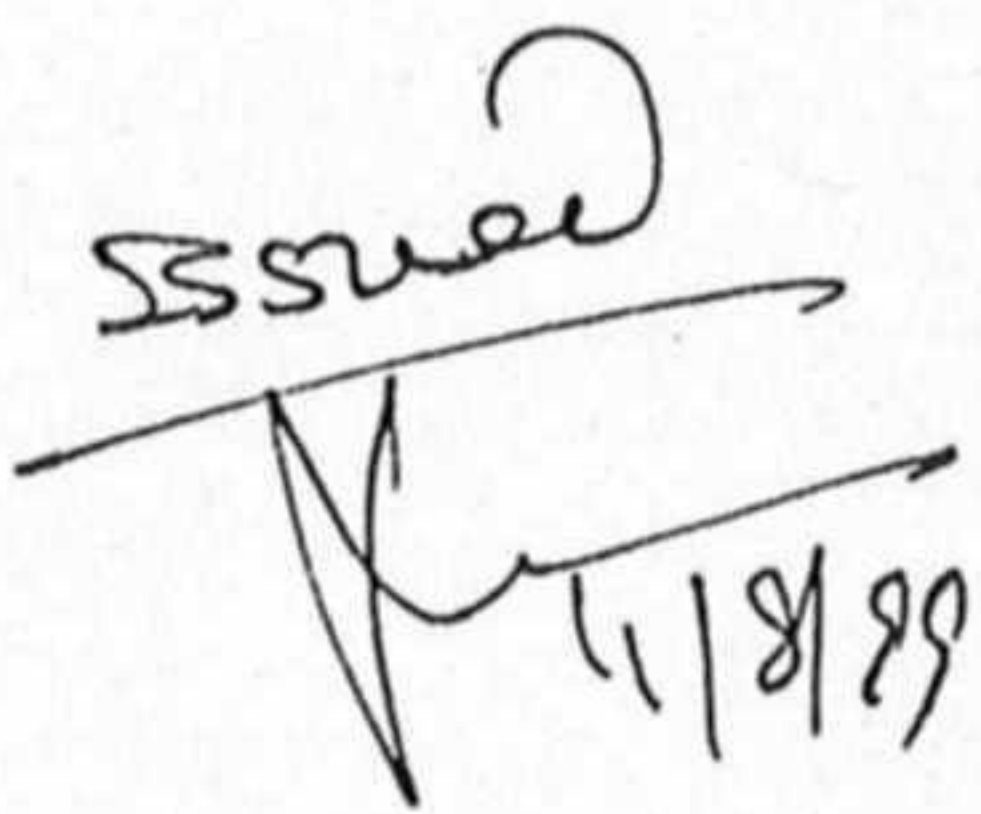
I am sending herewith the Advice of the National Commission for Backward Classes under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act for the Rejection of the Request for Inclusion of "Adhikari (the Brahmans of Namasudra community)" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Tripura, duly authenticated, for necessary 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

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NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

TRIPURA BENCH

FINDINGS

Case: Request for Inclusion of "Adhikari (the Brahmans of Namasudra community) in the Central List of Backward Classes for Tripura

Per Justice P.K. Shaymsundar, Chairperson

I. Request

This case arised from the Request received in this Commission from Shri Siddhartha Adhikari for the Inclusion of "Adhikari (the Brahmans of Namasudra community)" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Tripura.

II. Public Hearing

2. The two-Member Tripura Bench of the NCBC consisting of Hon'ble Justice P.K. Shyamsunder, Chaiperson 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 Public Hearing and gave valuable information. Neither the Request-maker nor any other member or representative of the caste/community under consideration appeared before the Bench.

III. Facts and Findings

3. The Adhikari caste/community under consideration is not included in the State List of Tripura and the Mandal

AUTHENTICATED


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

Commission's List of BCs for Tripura. Obviously for this reason, it is also not included in the Central List of BCs for Tripura notified by the Govt. of India in 1994.

4. In his letter of Request, Shri Siddhartha Adhikari has stated that "the Namashudra community has been included in the SC List and the Namasudra community Brahmins, i.e., Adhikari need urgent inclusion in the OBC list". He has not furnished any other data/information regarding the Adhikari community.

5. According to Risley ('The Tribes and Castes of Bengal', Firma Mukhopadhyaya, Calcutta, 1981, first edition 1891) "Adhikari" is "a title of Brahmans, Jugis, and Vaishnabs who officiate at religious ceremonies, serve as priests and spiritual guides of Vaishnabs and lower castes, and deal in charms, especially in use among Vaishnavas;....."

6. Obviously "Adhikari" is a Brahmin caste/community. A caste/community belonging to the Brahmin varna cannot in any way be considered as socially backward as such a caste/community is considered to be not only upper caste/community but the upper most caste/community in the Indian Caste System. This factor secures a certain high social status for members of this caste or caste-cluster, known as Brahman, of the four varnas. Though there are apparently lower and higher sections among Brahmans, it cannot be ignored that they belong to the Brahmin category and therefore they cannot come within the ambit of the definition and factum of social backwardness as such. In view of these facts, "Adhikari (the Brahmans of Namasudra community)" cannot in any way be considered as socially backward and hence the Request for its inclusion in the Central List of BCs for Tripura should be rejected.

P. G. Sengupta
30.7.99

P. J. Thakur
30.7.99

AUTHENTICATED

P. J. Thakur
Member Secretary
National Commission
for Backward Classes

IV. Advice of the Commission

7. 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:-

The Request for Inclusion of "Adhikari (the Brahmans of Namasudra community)" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Tripura should be rejected as it is not a socially backward caste/community.

J. L. Sengupta
30.7.99

P. S. Krishnan
30.7.99

Madan Mohan
2.8.99

Kshayan
30.07.99

P. S. Krishnan
2/8/99

AUTHENTICATED

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