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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 - 110 066

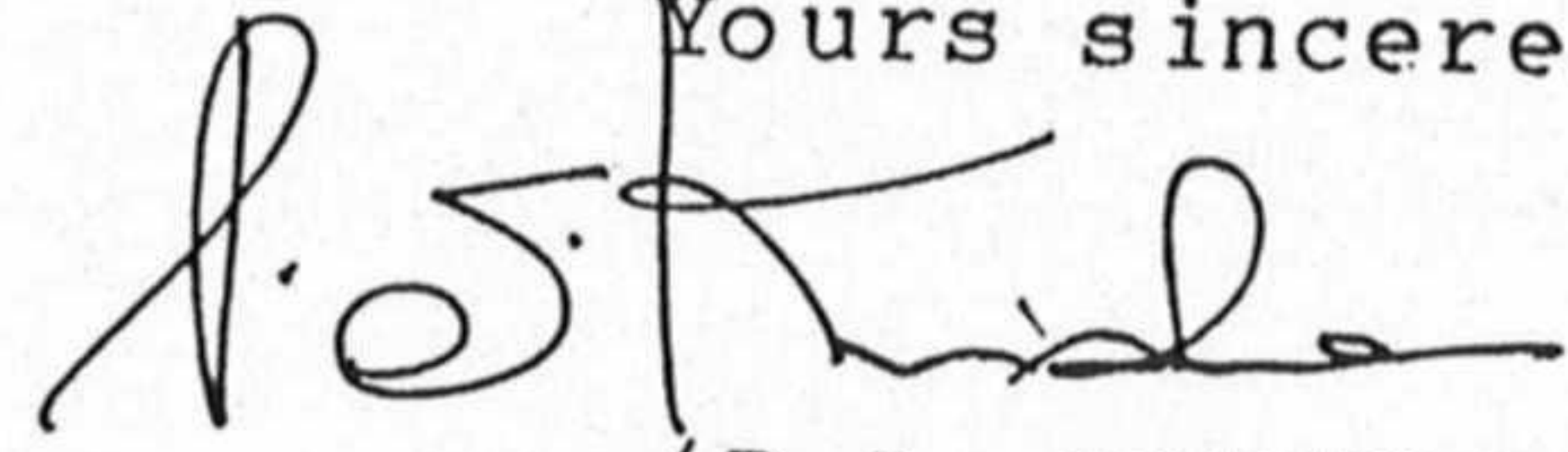
NCBC Advice No. Maharashtra 29/99

02. 09. 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 Inclusion of "Ganiga" and "Sapaliga" in the Central Lists of Backward Classes for Maharashtra, duly authenticated, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the Act.

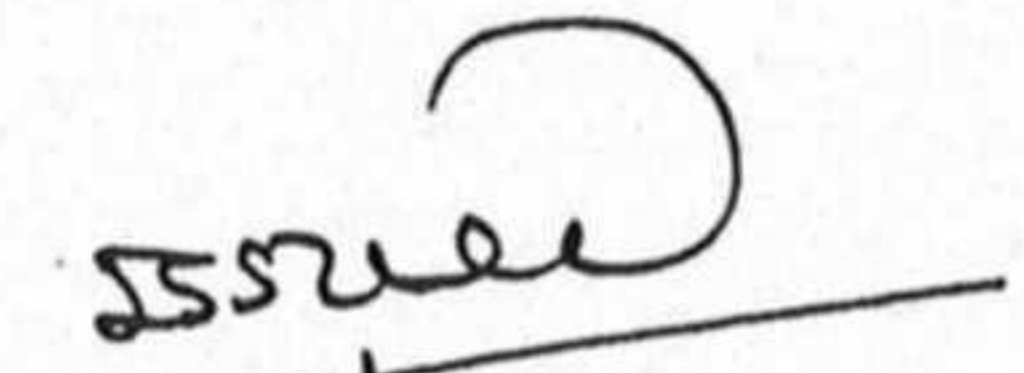
Yours sincerely

  
(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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2/9/99

NCBC Advice No. Maharashtra 29/99

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES  
MAHARASHTRA BENCH

FINDINGS

Per Shri P.S.Krishnan, Member-Secretary

Case: Request for Inclusion of  
"Ganiga/Sapaliga" caste/community in the  
Central List of Backward Classes for  
Maharashtra

I. Request

This case arises from the Request received in this Commission from the Saphalya Seva Sangha (regd.), R. No. 10, Bldg. No. 12, Colaba Transit Camp, B.H. & A.D. Board, Near World Trade Centre, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai-400005 for the Inclusion of "Ganiga, Sapaliga" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Maharashtra.

II. Public Hearing

2. The two-Member Maharashtra Bench of this Commission, consisting of Shri P.S.Krishnan, Hon'ble Member-Secretary, NCBC and Shri Sahu Akshay Bhai, Hon'ble Member, NCBC held a Public Hearing at Mumbai in respect of this Request on 10.08.1999. At the Public Hearing, the State Government was represented by Shri V.V. Phatak, Deputy Secretary, Department of Social Welfare, Shri C.R. Gosavi, Under-Secretary, Deptt. of Social Welfare and other officers. The Maharashtra State Backward Classes Commission was represented by Shri C.V. Nambekar, Research Officer. No member or representative of the "Ganiga/Sapaliga" caste/community under consideration appeared before the

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National Commission  
Backward Classes

Bench inspite of wide publicity about the Public Hearing and separate personal intimation to the Request-makers by the office of the NCBC, as usual and as per the Commission's procedure.

### III. Facts & Findings

3. Entry no. 125 in the first-phase Central List of Backward Classes for Maharashtra notified by the Government of India in 1993 on the basis of the principle of "commonality" (ie. inclusion in the Central List for each State of castes/communities which were commonly found included in the Mandal Commission's List for the State and the respective State Government's List of BCs that existed at that time) reads as follows:-

#### "125. Suppalig"

The corresponding entries in the Mandal Commission's List for Maharashtra and the State Government's List that existed at the time of the notification of the first-phase Central List for Maharashtra in 1993 are as follows:-

(i) Mandal Commission's List for Maharashtra

#### "242. Suppalig"

(ii) State List as existed in 1993

#### "145. Suppalig"

"Ganiga" is included in the Mandal Commission's List for Maharashtra at S.No. 249 as a synonym of Teli, as follows:-

#### "249. Teli, Ganiga, Ghanchi"

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In the State Government List that existed in 1993 "Ganiga" is not included but only "Teli" is included. Therefore, "Ganiga" is also not included in the first-phase Central List for Maharashtra as it did not satisfy the criterion of "commonality". The entry regarding "Teli" in the first-phase Central List for Maharashtra is as follows:-

**"158. Teli"**

This Commission has already examined Requests for Inclusion of a number of synonyms of Teli at the above entry in the Central List and tendered Advice to the Central Government for the Inclusion of "Teli-Lingayat, Teli-Sahu, Teli-Rathod" as synonyms of "Teli" and for the rejection of other synonyms, the inclusion of which was sought by the Request-makers in that case, which did not include "Ganiga" regarding which a separate Request is under consideration in the present Findings.

4. "Ganiga" has since been included in the State Government's List of Backward Classes along with "Ghanchi" at S.No. 300. This inclusion of "Ganiga, Ghanchi" in the State List is, as the Bench learnt during the course of public hearings held earlier, based on an executive decision of the State Government to include all castes/communities in the State List which were found included in the Mandal List for Maharashtra but were not already included in the State List and not based on any Advice of a Backward Classes Commission or Committee.

5. The Saphalya Seva Sangha in their letter of Request has stated as follows:-

"Basically Ganiga and Sapaliga are one and the same; but due to the traditional professions they have been

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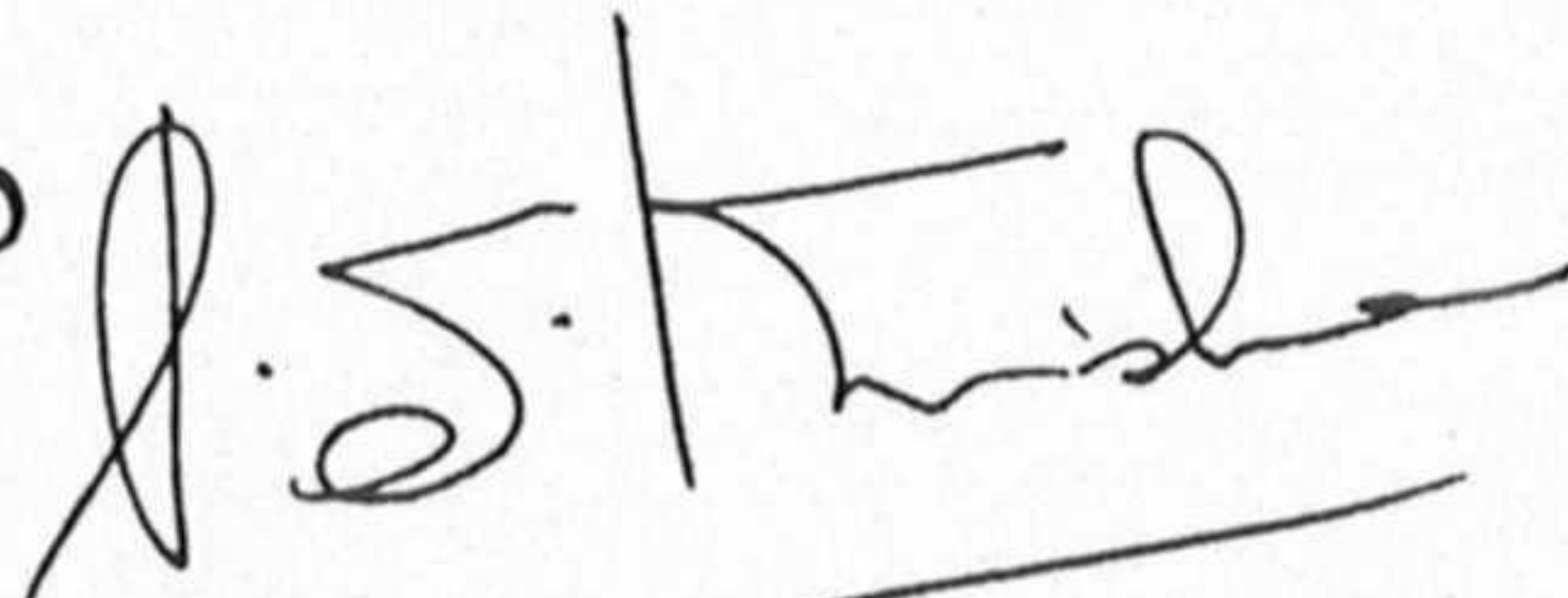
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Secretary

following they are called Ganigas and Sapaligas. Some members have been following the traditional profession of crushing oil (Ganiga) and some others have been following the profession of playing music during functions like marriages and in temples. In spare time, specially during rainy season some members used to take up farming....".

The letter of Request further states that inspite of their difficerent traditional functions, for all other social purposes the Ganigas and Sapaligas are treated as one and the same. It is also specified in the letter of Request that members of the community are immigrants from the South Kanara district of Karnataka who have settled down in Maharashtra.

6. During the Public Hearing, the representatives of the State Govt./State Commission furnished a note in which it is inter alia stated that a Request for the inclusion of "Sapaliga" in the State List is under the consideration of the State Commission. The note also mentioned a reference in a book titled 'Mumbai Ilakyatil Jati' that "the word Sappal means sound and Sappalig means one who does the sound, i.e., plays music for Gods in Temples. They also plays instruments in marriages and processions." The note states that "this description looks similar to the details given in the application", but the note does not mention the fact that "Suppalig" is already included in the State Government's List. The note of the State Govt./State Commission after mentioning the fact that "Ganiga" is included in the State List at S.No. 300 states that "there is no resemblance in the characteristics of both Ganiga and Sapaliga". The Bench is of the view that the Suppalig included in the State List at entry no. 145 and the 'Sapaliga' mentioned in the State Govt./State Commission note is the one and the same community, which is already

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included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Maharashtra also based on the principle of "commonality".

7. The claim of the Request-making Sangham that Ganiga and Sapaliga are in fact one and the same caste/community is supported by Edgar Thurston and Rangachari who in their classic ethnographic account 'Castes and Tribes of Southern India' quote the Madras Census Report, 1901, that "in some taluks of South Canara", the Sappligas "are said to be identical with, or a sub-caste of Ganiga". Thurston and Rangachari further quote the Madras Census Report, 1901 as noting that "The Sappligas are, as the name sappal (noise) implies, a class of musicians in temples, but a number of them are cultivators."

8. Under the head "Ganiga or Gandla", Thurston and Rangachari write that "The name Ganiga is derived from the Telugu ganuga, meaning an oil-mill. The Ganigas are said to be the oil pressers of the Canarese people, corresponding to the Telugu Gandla and the Tamil Vaniyan.....". R.E. Enthoven in his Tribes and Castes of Bombay writes under the head "Ganig" that "Ganigs are supposed to have come from Mysore, where they are found in large numbers. The ceremonies of the Bombay and Mysore Ganigs are in many respects similar, and two of the principal divisions of the caste, Kare and Sajjan, are found amongst both, which suggests their original identity."

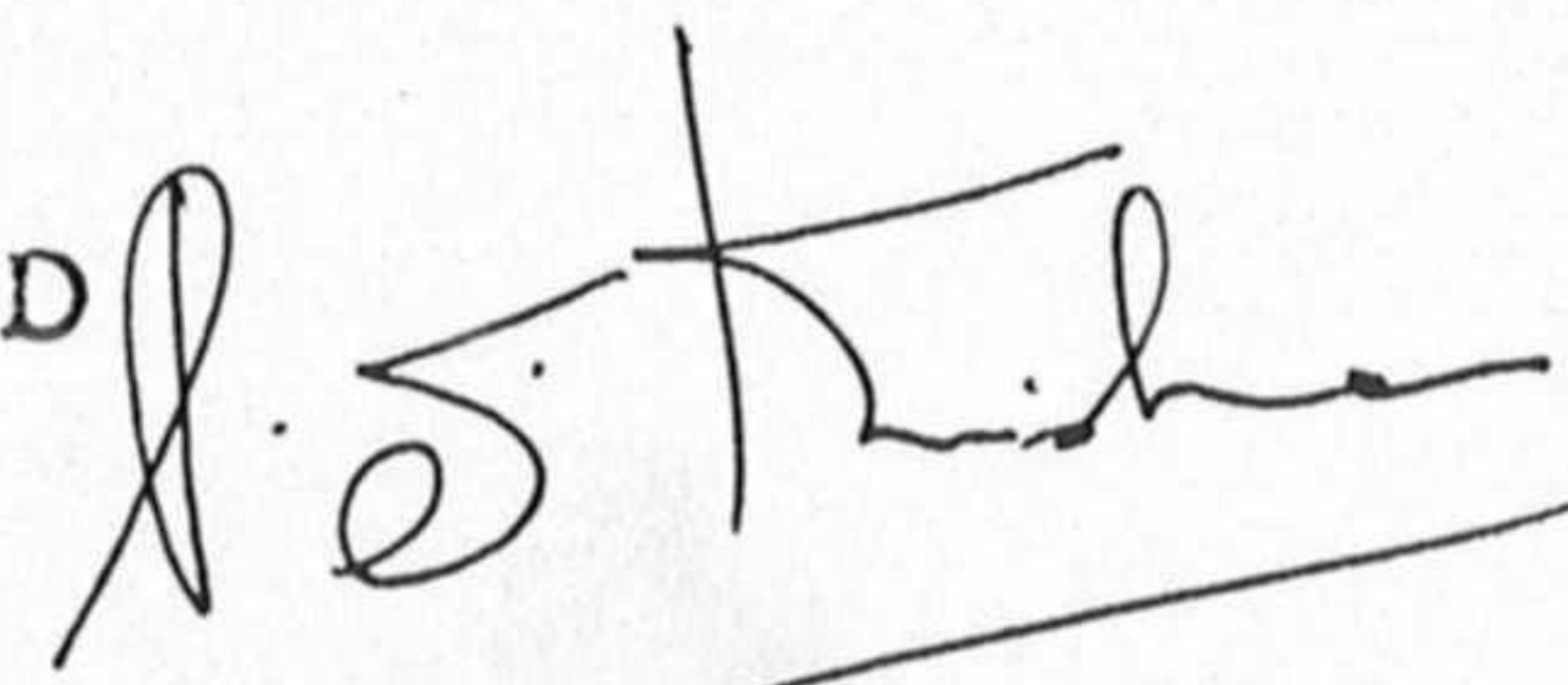
9. In the List of Backward Classes recommended by the first Backward Classes (Kaka Kalelkar) Commission for "Bombay" contained the following entries:-

"97. Ganiga, Ghanchi, Teli"

"313. Suppalig"

10. From the evidence available before the Bench, it is

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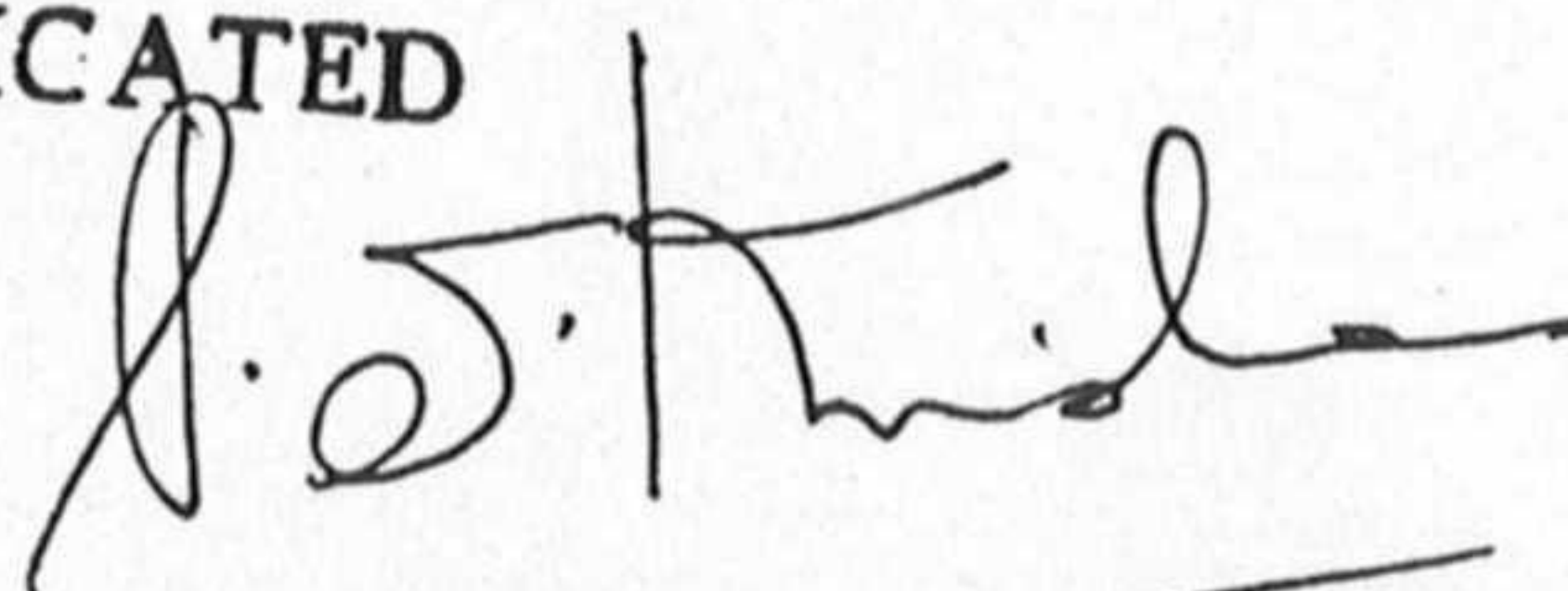
  
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the Finding of the Bench that Ganigas are an oil-crushing caste/community originally of South Canara. The members of this caste/community are also found in Maharashtra as suggested by the account of Enthoven and their inclusion in the List recommended by Kaka Kalelkar Commission and also the Mandal Commission. The Bench is of the view that they are a socially Backward Class and therefore deserve inclusion in the List of Backward Classes. It should, therefore, be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Maharashtra along with "Teli" at entry no. 158 and after this addition, read with the NCBC's earlier Advice No. 27-28/99 dated 12.7.99, the amended entry no. 158 should be read as follows:-

"158. Teli, Teli-Lingayat, Teli-Sahu, Teli-Rathod, Ganiga"

11. Regarding "Sapaliga", it is in fact covered by the existing entry "125. Suppalig" in the Central List of BCs for Maharashtra. 'Sapaliga' is only a phonetic-cum-spelling variant of the type that is found in respect of the names of a number of castes found in that part of the present Karnataka which was earlier in the Bombay Presidency where phonetic and spelling habits are influenced by Marathi and in that part of Karnataka which was originally in the old Mysore State where the phonetic and spelling habits are influenced by the features of Kannada. However, since 'Sapaliga' is a spelling not common to Maharashtra and pertains to a linguistic minority originally from the district of South Kanara or Dakshina Kannada of Karnataka and since because the members of this community may have difficulty in getting caste-certificates with the spelling that they use and which is found in their records, it would be appropriate and convenient to add "Sapaliga" as a synonym

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of "Suppalig" at entry no. 125 in the Central List of BCs for Maharashtra which entry, after the addition of "Sapaliga" should read as follows:-

"125. Suppalig, Sapaliga"

*Kshayam*  
31.08.99

*P. S. Krishnan*

26.8.1999

#### IV. Advice of the Commission

12. The Commission considered and agreed in full with the above Findings of the Maharashtra 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 NCBC Act:-

"Ganiga" be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Maharashtra along with "Teli" at S.No. 158 and after this addition, the entry no. 158 in the List, read with the NCBC's earlier Advice No. Maharashtra 27-28/99 dated 12.7.99, be read as follows:-

"158. Teli, Teli-Lingayat, Teli-Sahu, Teli-Rathod, Ganiga"

AND

"Sapaliga" be added as a synonym of "Suppalig" at entry no. 125 in the Central List of Backward Classes for Maharashtra,

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so that the amended entry reads as follows:-

"125. Suppalig, Sapaliga"

*Kshayam*  
31.08.99

*P. S. Krishna*

26.8.99

*Dr. M. An. Sudayam*  
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