



पी.एस. कृष्णन्
P.S. KRISHNAN
TEL. : 6183190

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
01. 12. 1998

NCBC Advice No. T.N. 96/98

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 Rejection of the Request for Inclusion of "Servai" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Tamil Nadu, duly authenticated, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the Act.

Yours sincerely

(P.S. KRISHNAN)

Encl: As stated.

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

21/2/98

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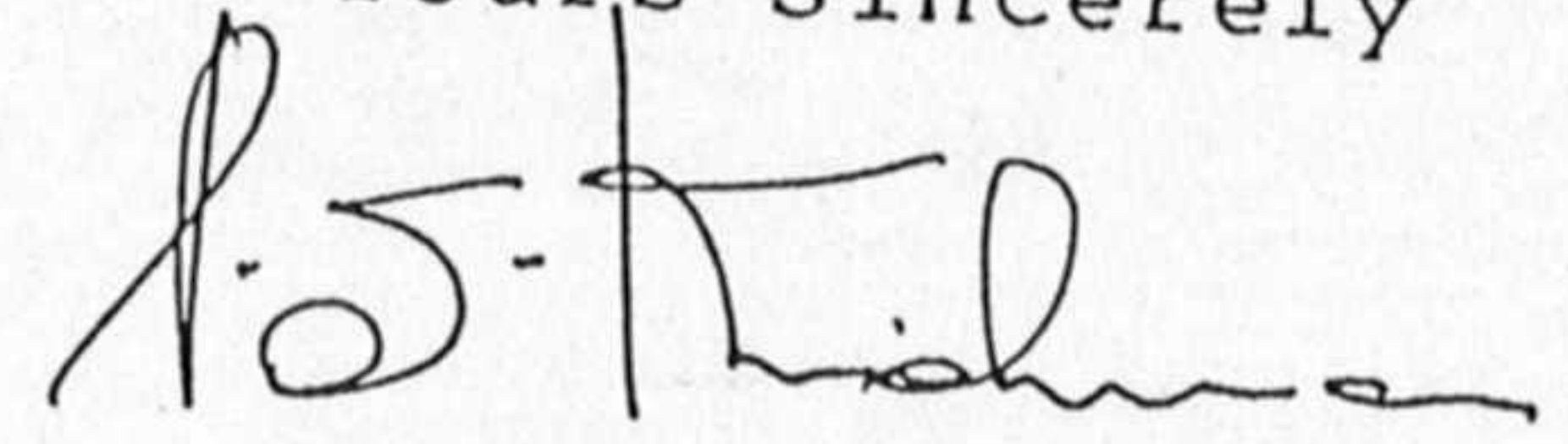
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NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

TAMIL NADU BENCH

FINDINGS

Per Justice Shri P.K. Shyamsundar, Chairperson

Case: Request for inclusion of "Servai" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Tamil Nadu.

I Request

This case arises from the Request received in this Commission from the State Government of Tamil Nadu for inclusion of "Servai" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Tamil Nadu.

II Public Hearing

2. The two-Member Tamil Nadu Bench of the Commission consisting of Hon'ble Justice Shri P.K.Shyamsundar, Chairperson, NCBC and Prof. U.P.Singh, Hon'ble Member, NCBC held a Public Hearing at Chennai on 13.6.97. At the Public Hearing the State Government was represented by Shri P.Shanmugam, Director of most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities, Shri A.Elangovan, Director of Backward Classes and Minorities and other officers of the Backward Classes Welfare Department. The community was represented by Shri Pardhan Servai, President, Servai Welfare Association, Madurai and others.

AUTHENTICATED

P. S. Shyamsundar
Member
National Commission
for Backward Classes

III. Facts

3. "Servai" has been included in the State List of Backward Classes for Tamil Nadu. This caste/community did not find place in the Mandal List. Therefore, it was not included in the first phase of Central List of Backward Classes as it did not fulfil the criteria of commonality i.e. being in the State List as well as Mandal List.
4. Filled-up Questionnaire prescribed by the NCBC have not been received both from the party as well as the State Government.
5. During the Public Hearing, the representatives of the Servai Welfare Association stated that "Servai" is the name of their caste and they are not related to any other caste. It has been included in the State List of Backward Classes for Tamil Nadu. The members of the community for their livelihood depend on agricultural labour, manual labour and work as servants. They are Socially and Economically backward. The literacy rate is very low. There has been no representative in the State Legislature or in the Parliament. None from the community has been selected in Civil Services or have ever occupied any high position in Government. The representation in Government service is nil.
6. In the Report of the First Backward Classes Commission, Tamil Nadu, Vol.I, 1970, under the head "Servai of Coimbatore District" the following observations have been made:

"Servai is only a title and not a caste name. In fact people from Thondaman, Agamudaiyan, Kallar and Ambalakaran communities use this title. Hence to include a title under Backward Classes will lead to complications. Once this is done, claims from various other castes will also pour in."

AUTHENTICATED
P. S. [Signature]
Member, Backward Classes Commission
Tamil Nadu

7. Edgar Thurston (Castes and Tribes of Southern India, Vol.VI, Asian Educational Services, New Delhi, first published in 1909) under the head "Servai" writes that "Servai, meaning service, has been recorded as the title of Agamudaiyans and Valaiyans. Servaikaran or Servaigaran(captain or commander) is the title of Agamudaiyan, Ambalakaran, Kallan, Maravan and Parivaram. It further occurs as the name for a headman among the Vallambans, and it has been adopted as a false caste name by some criminal Koravas in the south."

8. The Bench notes that "Servai" is a title used by some castes/communities like Agamudaiyan, Ambalakaran, Kallan, Maravan, Parivaram, Thondaman, Thozhu or Thuluva Vellala etc. Inclusion of such title under Backward Class will lead to complications and give way for other titles also.

IV. Findings

9. From the above materials and facts, it is the finding of the Bench that "Servai" is only a title/surname adopted by some castes/communities. It is not a caste and therefore claim for inclusion is totally unmerited besides inclusion of a mere title will be abused by adoption for securing the benefit of reservation by castes/communities not deserving such a benefit. Therefore, the Request for inclusion of "Servai" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Tamil Nadu should be rejected.

U.P. Singh
(U.P. Singh) 23-11-90

P. K. Shyamsundar
(Justice P.K. Shyamsundar) 25/11/90

AUTHENTICATED

P. S. Prakashan
P. S. Prakashan
Member, Backward Classes Commission
Tamil Nadu

V. Advice of the Commission

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

"The Request for Inclusion of "Servai" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Tamil Nadu be rejected as "Servai" is only a title/surname adopted by some castes/communities and its inclusion will give scope for misuse of the entry by some members of certain forward castes/communities for obtaining false caste certificates.

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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29/11/98

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23.11.98

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26.11.98

Handwritten signature
27.11.98

AUTHENTICATED
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P. S. ...
Member ...
National Commission
for Backward Classes