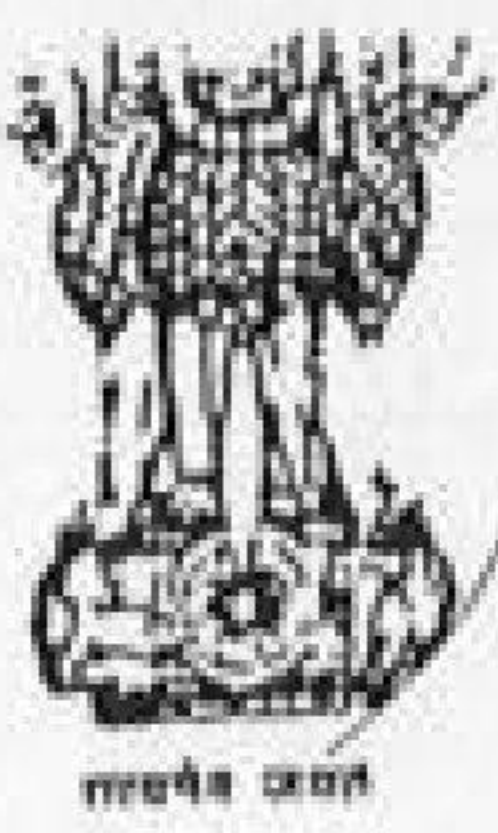




पी.एस. कृष्णन्
P.S. KRISHNAN
TEL. : 6183190

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

NCBC Advice No. West Bengal 38/98

29. 05. 1998

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 inclusion of 'Thami' 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.

2. With this, Advices on 247 castes/sub-castes/synonyms, etc. have been tendered to the Government by the NCBC, after its reconstitution, of which 244 are still pending with Government.

With Best Wishes,

Yours sincerely

P.S. Krishnan
(P.S. KRISHNAN)

JSB
P.S.
2/6/98

Encl: As stated.

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



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Bengal and other officials.

III. Facts

3. The Mandal List did not include the "Thami" caste/community and 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 Notifiation No. 346-TM/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 caste/communities.
4. The Government of West Bengal issued its second list 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 and the third list of 3 castes/communities was issued by its Notification No. 370-TW/EC/M-6/82(I), dated 12th May, 1995, published in Calcutta Gazette of the same date. The State Govt. issued its fourth list of 9 Backward Classes by Notification No. 1179-TW/EC/M-6/82(I), dated 1st December, 1995, in the Calcutta Gazette of the same date and included "Thami" caste/community as follows:-

AUTHENTICATED
P. S. KRISHNAN
Member
Backward Classes

"7. Thami" (List -4)

5. The State Govt. of West Bengal has sent a copy of WBCC's note alongwith NCBC's filled up Questionnaire in respect of the caste/community . The note contains the following details :-

(i) Thamis are distributed in the districts of Darjeeling and Jalpaigudi and mostly inhabit the remote villages of the Himalayan foot hills in their native place bordering Tibet . They migrated from Dolka district of East Nepal and speak Tibeto Burmese dialect. The population of the 'Thamis' is about 5000 and scattered over all the sub-division of Darjeeling district and the Dooars areas of Jalpaigudi district. They have also settled in some of the adjoining states. It has been stated that the Thamis might have migrated from the Simanghat/Kumanghat areas in the North-Indian frontiers of India, Tibet and Nepal . Another view is that they might have entered into India via Burma. The Historians believe that this took place between the 14th and the 15th century. Due to their simplicity and backwardness they became the victims of tyranny of feudalism and they had to lead a life of slaves which forced them to move towards Darjeeling and Jalpaigudi regions of West Bengal. Here also they suffer from the same social stigma due to their low social position and poor living condition. They are considered as low caste in the hierarchial order but they are higher than the Kami, Damai and Sarki, the enlisted Scheduled Castes of West Bengal and are treated like the Scheduled Tribes. Many of them feel shy to disclose their clan identity due to their backwardness in every sphere of life and activites.

12/11/2019
F. S. KRISHNAN
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ii). The note further states that the economic condition of Thamis is very poor. Majority of them eke out their existence as landless agricultural labourers, tea garden labourers and ordinary labourers. About 100% of them work on other's land. Service holders are few in number. There are some ex-servicemen. Majority of them exist below the poverty line. Cent percent of them live in thatched hutments and go to the thatched sheds to attend nature's call and they live on spring water.

iii). It is also mentions that the average educational standard of the 'Thamis' clan of people is very low. The majority of them are illiterate. There are 13 Matriculates and 8 Graduates among them. There is non in Post-Graduate level. The percentage of this class in the independent profession like Medicine, Engineering and Law is 'Nil'.

6. The NCBC Questionnaire has been filled by the Association and a copy of the same was obtained by WBCC contains the following facts:-

i). Thami is the main caste mainly concentrated in Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts of West Bengal.

ii). The caste/community is generally regarded as socially backward.

iii). The occupation on which members of the caste/community mainly depend for livelihood is agricultural labour which involve manual labour rendered for wage and are engaged as tea garden labourers, labour or porter in town and landless (hired) agricultural labourers in the villages for their livelihood. The manual labour is rendered for meagre wages in the agricultural land of the other landholders. Almost cent percent members of the caste/community are

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D. S. KRISHNAN
Secretary

both landless manual (both agricultural and non-agricultural) labourers. The women as well as the 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 non-agricultural occupations such as porters in town, unskilled labour, domestic servants, non-artisans etc. They have got neither traditional nor hereditary craft. The occupation in which they are engaged in is generally regarded as indignified and uncleaned by the so called affluent and advanced Nepali Caste.

iv). 100% of their persons live in Kachha houses.

v). As regard educational level of the caste/community data given by the representative of the Association, show that 105 persons are only literate which forms 2% of the literacy rate in the state which is based on Survey of 1995. These figures included of only two districts viz; Darjeeling & Jalpaigudi. Literacy percentage of these districts as per Census of India 1991 has been given in the Questionnaire 57.95% & 45.09% respectively. Data regarding female literacy, number of matriculates were given 23 & 13 respectively.

7. Ethnographic account about the "Thamis" caste/community is not available for West Bengal in Risley's work. In the adjoining State Sikkim 'Thamis' are also found. A good account of its description is available in 'People of India' of that State.

8. People of India-Sikkim, Volume XXXIX by K.S.Singh, published by Anthropological Survey of India, Calcutta, 1993, p.184-188) describes 'Thami' as numerically one of the samllest communities of the State of Sikkim with estimated population not more than 500 and few in the neighbouring areas of Darjeeling and Nepal. In Sikkim, there is only one conspicuous cluster of Thamis at Aritar Sunua, Aritar (East Sikkim). They are also found in small

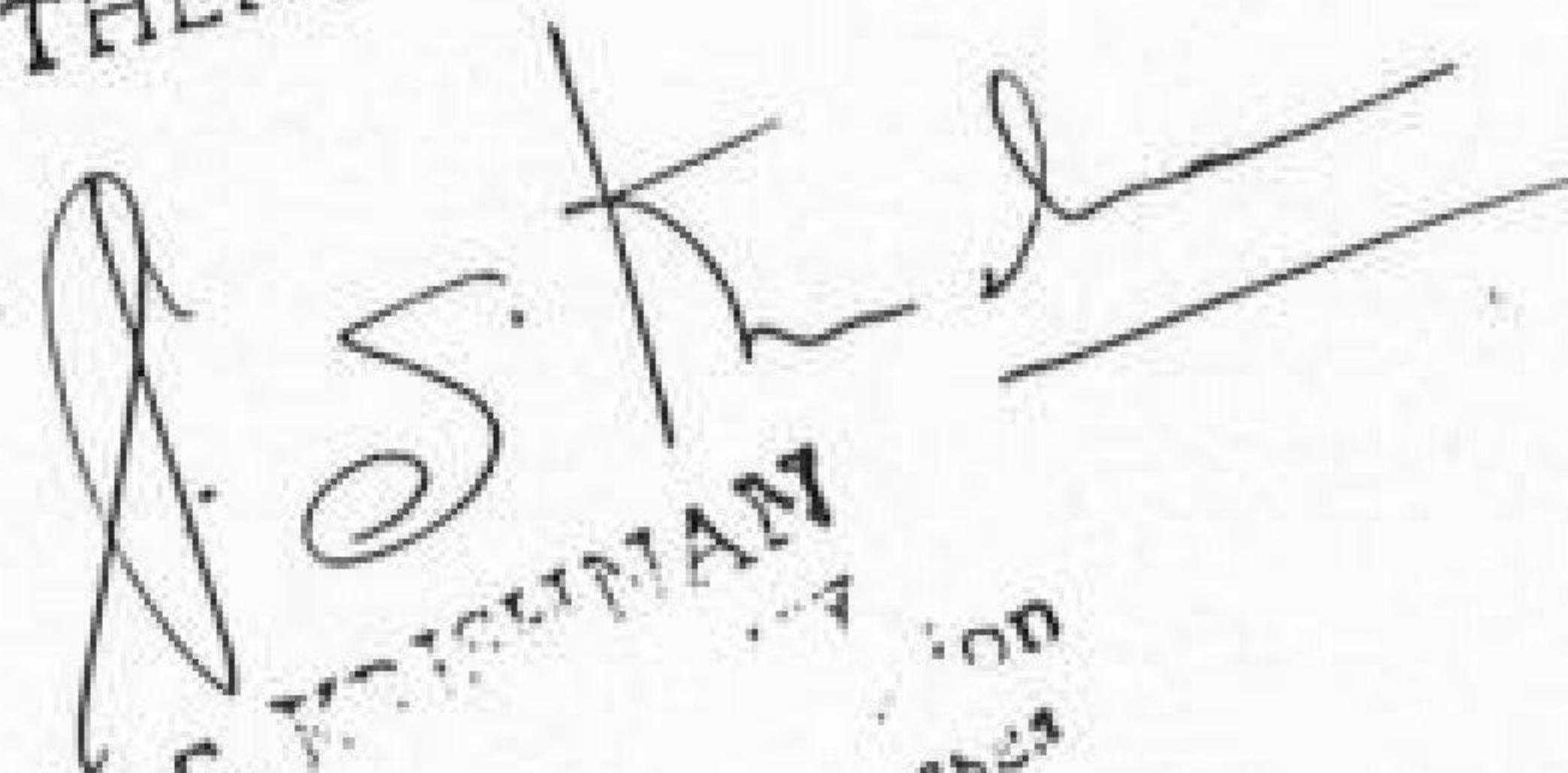
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9. Thamis are known to have very close linkages with the Tamangs from early times. There were not only ritual, social and occupational linkges but also similar practices and conventions. Tamang has been specified in the Central List of BCs for Sikkim at entry no. 7.

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

11. The NCBC vide its Advices No. Sikkim 1/98 dated 10.3.1998 has tendered Advice in respect of the Thami caste/community for inclusion in the Central List of Backward Classes for Sikkim.

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P. S. KISHORE
Member, NCBC

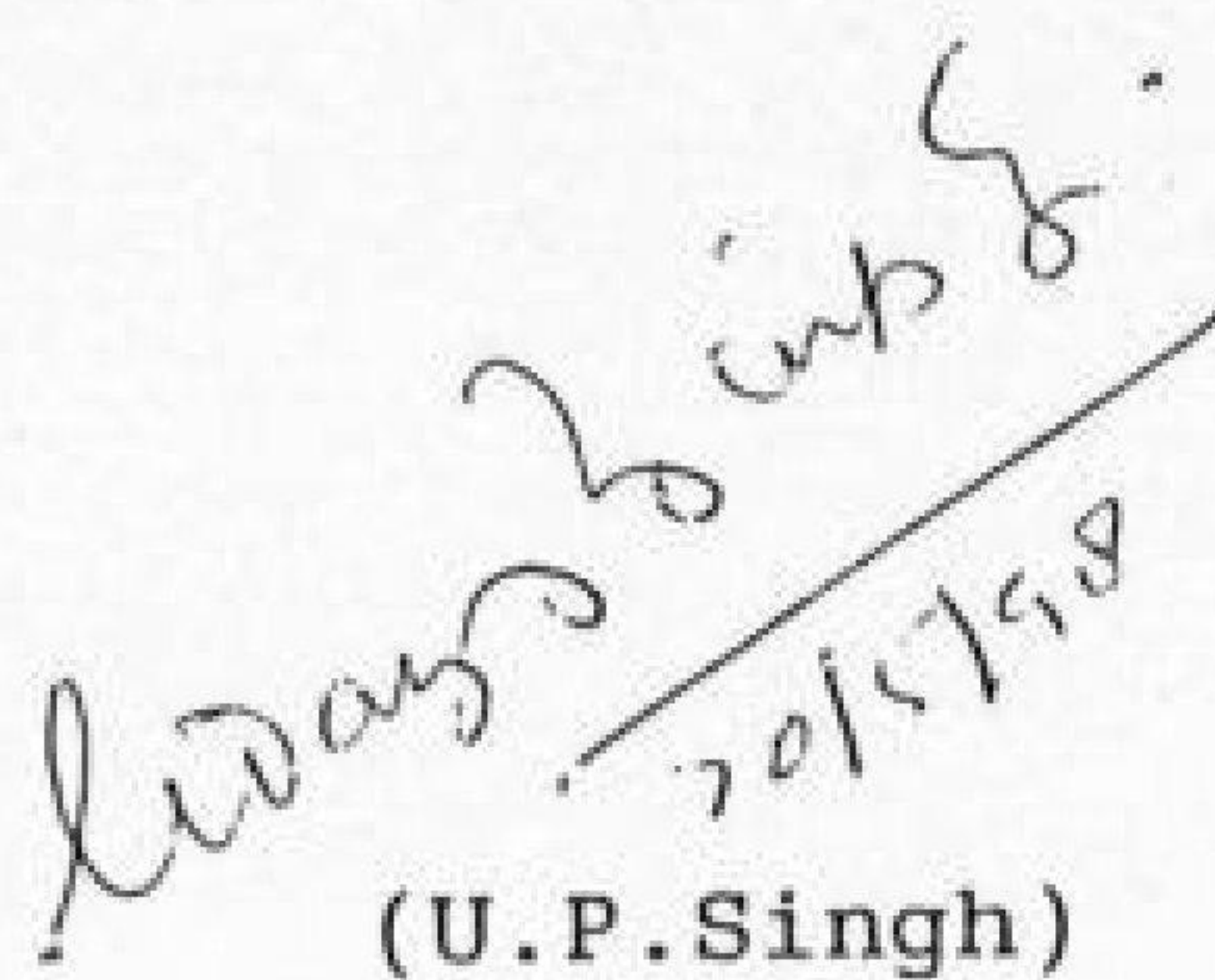
for inclusion
10/3/98

IV. Findings

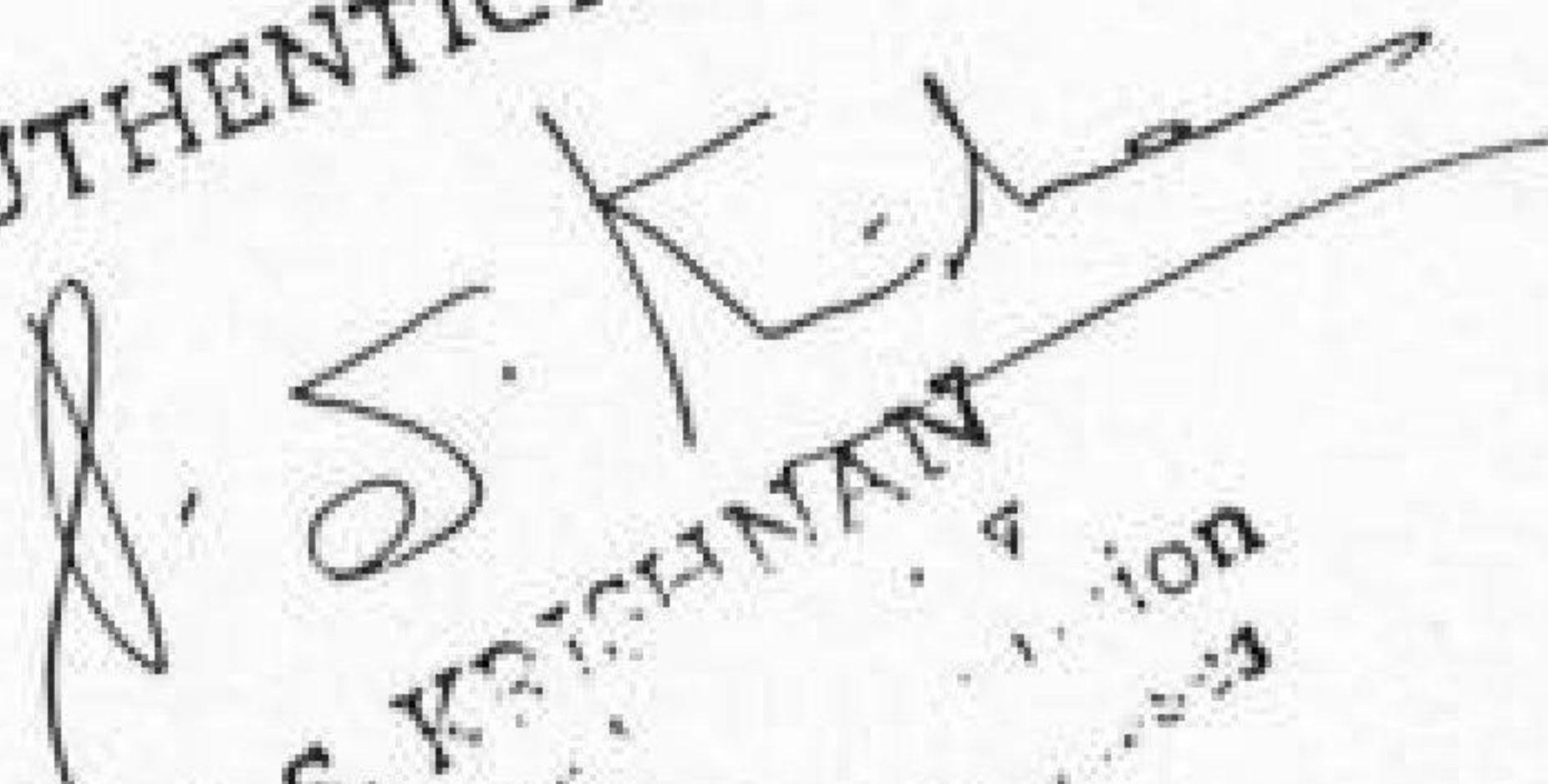
12. From the above evidence it is the Findings of the Bench that the "Thami" caste/community is a Socially and Educationally Backward Class and it should therefore be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal at entry No. 39 as follows:-

"39. Thami"


20.05.98
(Sahu Akshaya Bhai)


20/5/98
(U.P. Singh)

AUTHENTICATED


P. S. KRISHNAN
Member
Joint Committee
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:-

"Thami" caste/community should be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal at entry no. 39 as follows:-

"39. Thami"

Kshaya
20.05.98
Leuterathi
20.5.98

Madan Mohan
20/5/98

P. S. Shyam
26.5.98

P. le. Shyam
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JUSTICE P. K. SHYAMSUNDAR
Chairperson
National Commission For
Backward Classes
Government of India
New Delhi.

AUTHENTICATED

P. S. Shyam
P. S. SHYAM
M. S. SHYAM
10.10.98