



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

29
DO NCBC Advice No. 28 Haryana/98

11. 08. 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 the Rejection of the Request for Inclusion of 'Udasin' in the Central List of Backward Classes for Haryana, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the Act.

2. With this Advices on 270 castes, sub-castes, synonyms etc. have been tendered to the Government by the Commission, after its reconstitution in 1997, of which 267 are still pending with the Government for Notification.

With Best Wishes,

Yours sincerely

(P.S. KRISHNAN)

Encl: As stated.

Shri D.K. Manavalan
Secretary
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Shastri Bhavan
NEW DELHI 110 001

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

Haryana Bench

Findings

Per Shri P.S.Krishnan, Member-Secretary

Case: Request for Inclusion of "Udasin" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Haryana

I. Request

This case arises from the Request received in this Commission from the State Government of Haryana inter alia for the Inclusion of "Udasin" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Haryana. A similar Request has also been received from the Backward Classes Welfare Society, near Bus Stand, village Birohar, Rohtak.

II. Public Hearing

2. The two-Member Haryana Bench of the Commission consisting of Shri P.S.Krishnan, Hon'ble Member-Secretary, NCBC and Shri Navtej Puadhi, Hon'ble Member, NCBC held Public Hearings in respect of this Request at Chandigarh on 9.4.1997 and 11.7.97. At the Public Hearings the State Government was represented by Smt. Komal Anand, Secretary, Department of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes Welfare, Shri Sushil Kumar, Director and Shri Mani Ram, Deputy Director in the Directorate of Social Welfare. The community was represented by Shri J.S. Udasi, Advocate, Chairman, Bharatiya Udasin Maha Sabha, Ambala city.

III. Facts

3. The "Udasin" is included in the State List of Backward Classes at entry no. 66. It is not found included in the Mandal Commission's List of Backward Classes for Haryana and

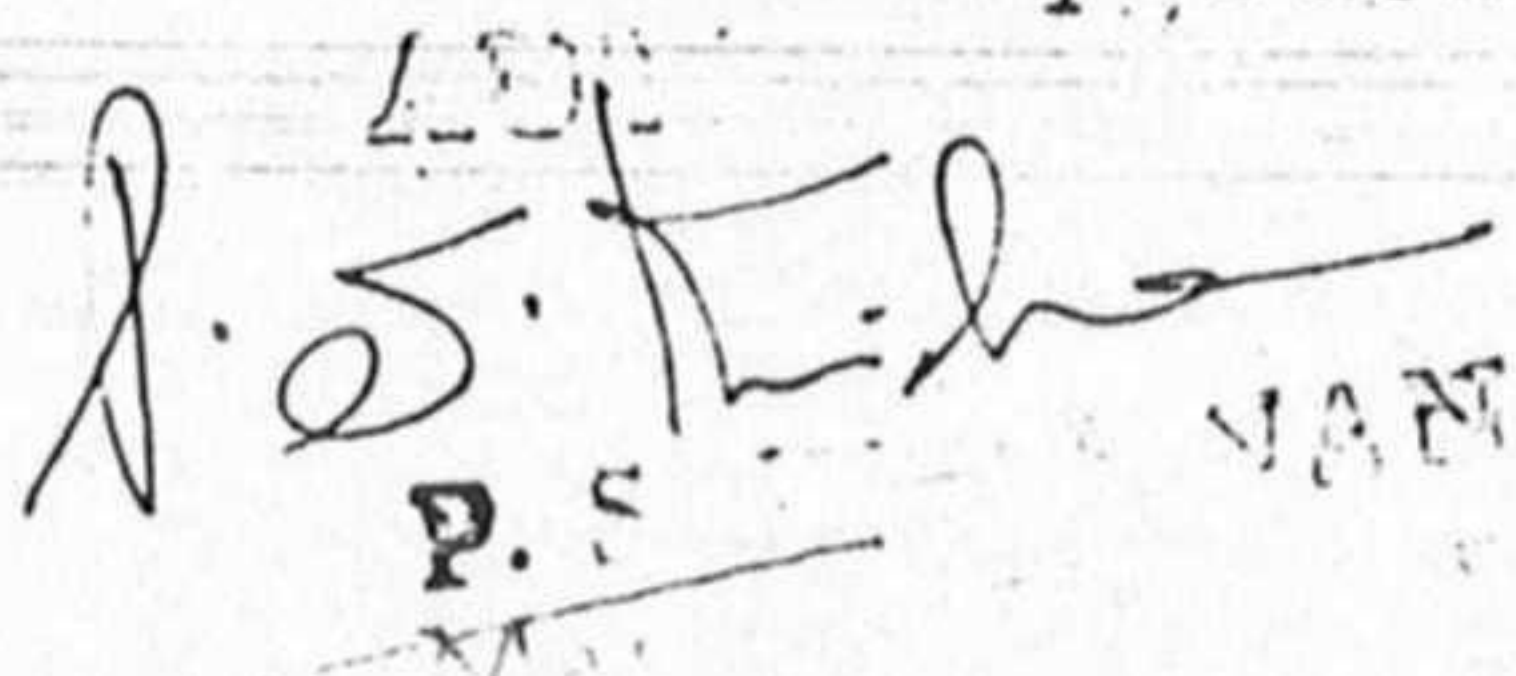
ENTICATED

S. KRISHNAN

for this reason it is also not included in the first-phase Central List of Backward Classes for Haryana prepared in 1993 on the basis of the principle of commonality.

4. The NCBC's Questionnaire filled up by the State Government gives "Astrology(Jyotish)" as the occupation on which the members of the community mainly depend for their livelihood. During the Public Hearing the representative of the community said that "Udasin" is a Socially and Educationally Backward Class. Earlier the community belonged to a cult of saints who lived in monasteries and wandered from one religious place to another. The members of the community used to perform all religious rituals. Passage of time saw to their gradual adoption of other professions. At present they do not have any permanent occupation. The members of the community perform all sorts of labour work which mainly involve manual labour for wage. A few of them are in petty jobs/business. The representation of the community in Govt. and Public Sector services is negligible. The community does not have any members in professional services like Doctors, Engineers, Lawyers, etc. There are no MPs or MLAs from the community.

5. Under the head "**The Udasi**", Denzil Ibbetson ["Punjab Castes"(based on the Census of the Panjab, 1881 carried out by Ibbetson himself), Low Price Publications, Delhi, 1993, first published 1916] writes as follows:- "The Udasi or Nanakputra were founded by Sri Chand, the eldest son of Baba Nanak, and excommunicated by the second Guru, Amar Das. They again, being founded before the time of Guru Govind, have for the most part returned themselves as Hindus.... They are almost confined to the Sikh tract. They are for the most part celibate, and the naked section or Udasi Nanga are always so. They practise Hindu rites, wear the tilak or sect-mark, and reject the Granth of Guru Govind but revere the Adi Granth of Baba Nanak. They are hardly recognised as Sikhs. They are said to bear a high character, and are sometimes collected in monasteries, though not usually so. Many live at home, engage in worldly pursuits,


P. S. VANI

and differ little from their neighbours....". A similar description of the community is also given by H.A. Rose ["A Glossary of the Tribes and Castes of the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province", Asian Educational Services, New Delhi, Madras, 1990, first published 1911].

6. W. Crooke ['The Tribes and Castes of North Western India, Cosmo Publications, Delhi, 1975, Vol. IV; originally published under the title 'The Tribes and Castes of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh', Calcutta-1896] while giving almost a similar description about 'Udasi', also interalia states that the "Udasis are recruited from all castes and will eat food from any Hindu", and also that, "In Ludhiana the Udasis are mostly Jats by origin, the disciple and successor (chela) being usually chosen from this tribe and are found to be in possession of the Dharmasalas in Hindu villages,...."

III. Findings

7. From available evidence, the Bench arrives at the Finding that "Udasin" is not a caste or caste-like community with intergenerational continuity, but is the name of a religious sect whose members were originally recruited from a number of different castes/communities some of which could be Socially Backward and others Socially not Backward. They belong to different deras whose members maintain their caste identities, some of them socially backward. Those who belong to socially backward castes already find place in the list of Backward Classes by their appropriate caste names. Bringing all Udasins together in the list of BCs will not only be contrary to social reality, but will also result in some members of Socially Advanced Castes being let in. 'Udasin', therefore, cannot be considered as a Social Class at all, let alone a Socially Backward class and, for this reason, the Request for its Inclusion in the Central List of Backward Classes for Haryana should be rejected.

THENTICATED

haryana

P. S. K. Sharma

27.3.98

V. Advice of the Commission

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

The Request for Inclusion of 'Udasin' in the Central list of Backward Classes for Haryana should be rejected, as it is not a Socially Backward Class.

Sanjay Kumar

P. S. K. N.
27.3.98

Udasin Singh
3.7.98

Ashwani
09.07.98

P. S. K. N.
5/7/98

P. S. K. N.
P. S. K. N.
Member
National Commission
for Backward Classes