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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
Trikoot - 1, Bhikaiji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110 066

NCBC Advice No. Pondicherry 85/2000

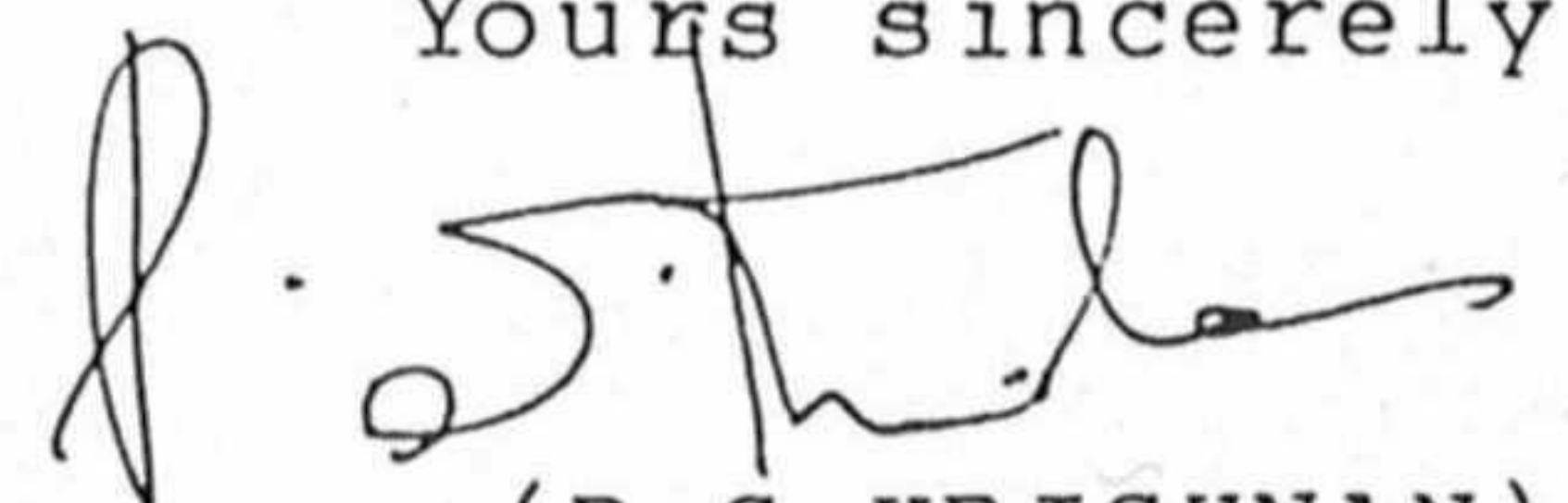
06. 01. 2000

Dear Smt. Das,

I am sending herewith the Advice of the National Commission for Backward Classes under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act, 1993 for the Inclusion of "Namdev Maratha" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Pondicherry, duly authenticated, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the NCBC Act.

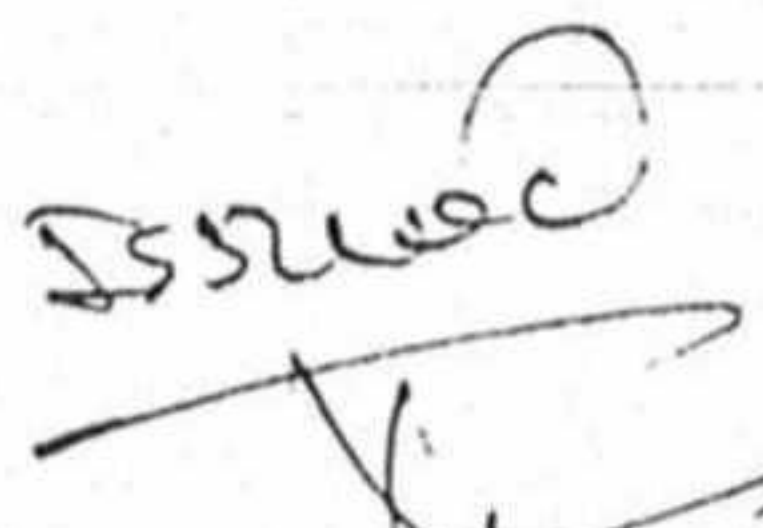
2. With this Advices in resepct of a total of 775 (382 for Inclusion + 393 for Rejection) castes, sub-castes, communities, synonyms etc. have been tendered by the Commission after its reconstitution in 1997 of which 504 (111 for Inclusion + 393 for Rejection) are still pending with the Government for Notification.

Yours sincerely


(P.S. KRISHNAN)

Encl: As stated

Smt. Asha Das
Secretary
Ministry of Social Justice & Emperment
Shastri Bhavan
NEW DELHI


7/1/2000

NCBC Advice No. 85/Pondicherry/ 2000.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

Pondicherry Bench

Findings

Per Justice P.K.Shyamsundar, Chairperson

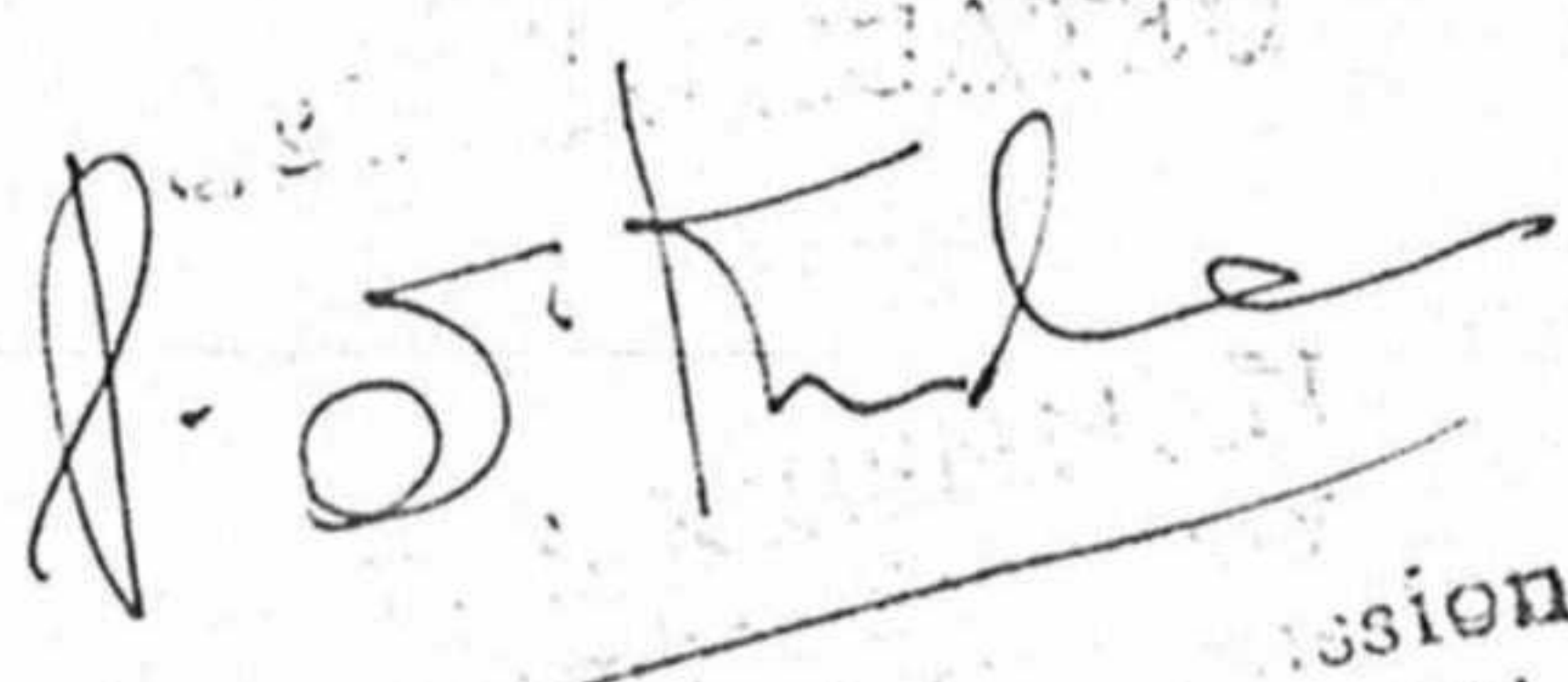
Case: Request for inclusion of "Namdev Maratha" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Pondicherry.

I. Request

1. This case arises from the Request received in this Commission from Shri S.Veerasami Rao, President, Pondicherry Bhavasara Kshatriya Magasabai, 184, Sinna Suburaya Pillai Street, Pondicherry-605001 for Inclusion of "Namdev Maratha" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Pondicherry.

II. Public Hearing

2. A three-Member Bench of the NCBC consisting of Justice P.K.Shyamsundar, Hon'ble Chairperson, Shri Sahu Akshaya Bhai and Shri U.P. Singh Hon'ble Members held a Public Hearing in respect of this request at Pondicherry on 9.2.1999. At the Public Hearing, the U.T. Government was represented by Shri Felix Sequria, Welfare Secretary, Shri A.Salvaraj, Deputy Director, Social Welfare, Shri V. Swaminathan, Research Officer, Social Welfare Deptt. And other Officials. The community was represented by Shri S.Veerasami Rao and others.


Session
1999

III. Facts

3. The U.T. of Pondicherry 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 the U.T. of Pondicherry as it could do for 14 other States, which already had their respective lists of Backward Classes, and therefore, the Central Government also could not issue a Central List of Backward Classes for the U.T. of Pondicherry in 1993. The Government of U.T. of Pondicherry issued its list of Backward Classes by its Notification No. G.O. MS.No.2094-Wel(SW)-II dated 6-7-1994 (pending finalisation of the Backward Classes List). The List issued by the Government of U.T. of Pondicherry is a mechanical repetition in toto of the Mandal Commission's List. All the entries in the Mandal List, except entry at Sl.No. 161 "New Buddhists, Nov Buddhists" appears in the Backward Classes List of U.T. of Pondicherry. Thereafter, the Central Government vide Ministry of Welfare's Resolution No.120119/94-BCC dated 19-10-1994 issued a Common (Central) List of Backward Classes for the U.T. of Pondicherry purportedly on the basis of the principle of commonality between the Mandal List and the State List, but which in fact is seen to be a repetition in toto of the U.T. List of Pondicherry, and thus is in effect a repetition of the Mandal List except for New Buddhists (it should really be Neo-Buddhists or Nav-Bauddha, who had been included in the list of SCs in the period between the Mandal Report and the drawing up of BC Lists).
4. During the Public Hearing the State Government stated that "Mahratta" caste/community is found in Pondicherry and the members of the 'Maratha' caste/community who follow the ideals of Guru Namdev are known as Namdev Maratha. In the neighboring State of Tamil Nadu their community is included in the Central List of BCs as "Mahratta:(Non-Brahmin)(including Namdev

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Member Secretary
National Commission
for Backward Classes

Mahratta) and are not included in the UT List and Central List of BCs for Pondicherry.

5. The representatives of the caste/community submitted that earlier they had requested for inclusion of 'Mahratta' caste/community but since the Bench had asked them to specify the name of the caste they have made a fresh request for inclusion of 'Namdev Maratha' in the Central List of BCs for Pondicherry. Since the members of their community follow the ideals of Guru Namdev, they are known as Namdev Maratha. Their ancestors who worked as warriors came with the army during the period of great Shivaji when his kingdom was spread to South and settled in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry after the downfall of Maratha rule in South. Their traditional occupation is Dyeing & Printing of clothes and some of the members of their community also sell clothes by carrying them on their heads and some have small shops. Other than doing their traditional occupation they do small business like selling vegetables, running hotels, selling general goods in thelas. The women of the caste/community are engaged in stitching, tailoring-embroidery work and manual house hold work to supplement the income of the family. Children are also engaged in manual work in hotels, tailoring shops and other business establishments for their family's livelihood. Their children since the childhood start their traditional work with their parents, as a result neither they get education nor improve their social status. They speak Marathi language. The population of the community is around 500. On specific query by the Bench, it was stated that their caste/community 'Namdev Maratha' is more or less at the level of Rangari and Chhipa which have already been included in the Central List of BCs for different States. In the neighboring State of Tamil Nadu their community is included in the Central List of BCs as "Mahratta(Non-Brahmin)(including Namdev Mahratta).
6. In the book "India's Communities" People of India National Series Vol.VI, K.S.Singh, Published by Anthropological Survey of India, Oxford University

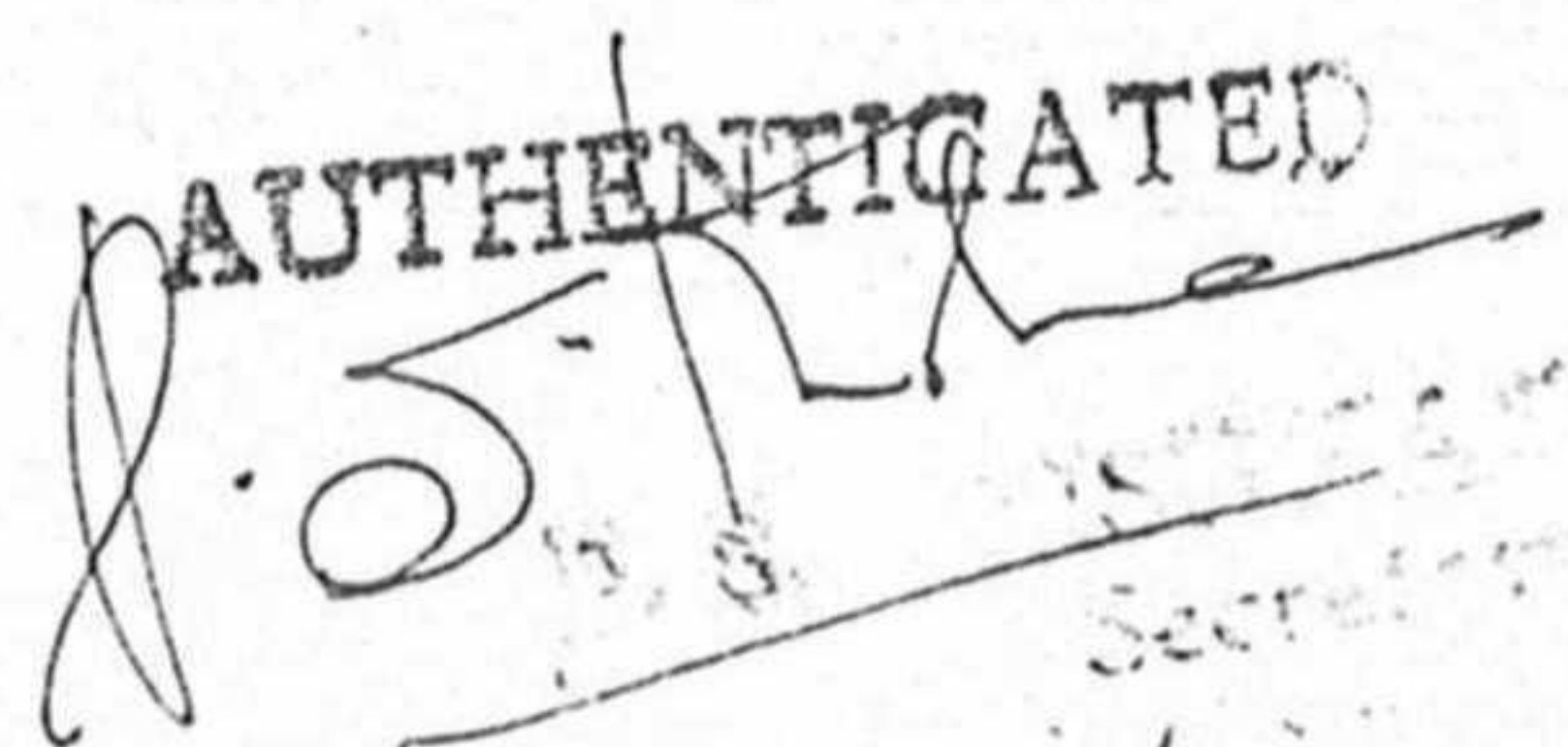
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Pondicherry

Press, Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai, Mumbai, 1998 have described the caste/community 'Namdev Maratha' as under:

"Namdev Maratha – Also known as Rangari, the Namdev Maratha trace their descent from Namdev, a Maratha saint, who migrated to Tamil Nadu about 300 years ago. The term Maratha refers to their native land Maharashtra. They are referred to as Bhavasara Kshatriya too, and claim their origin to the occupational identity with the Chimpiga (tailor) and Rangarache (dyer). Quoting Stuart, Thurston (1909) states, 'Maratha, as a caste name, is somewhat open to confusion, and it is probable that many people of various castes, who speak Marathi, are shown as being of that caste'. But the Marathas who followed certain saints were named after them. The Namdev Maratha, who followed Namdev saint, maintained separate caste identity within Marathas in Tamil Nadu. Nowadays they use Rao and Bai as their title, and believe that they were the soldiers of Chatrapati Shivaji who ruled the Thanjavur kingdom. They are distributed in Thanjavur, North Arcot, South Arcot, and Madras districts. They speak Marathi as their mother tongue. They are conversant with Tamil and use the Tamil script. Some of them know the Devanagari script too. They are non-vegetarian, but abstain from eating beef and pork. Their staple food is rice. The traditional and present occupations of the Namdev are tailoring and dyeing. Some are engaged as labourers in different fields.

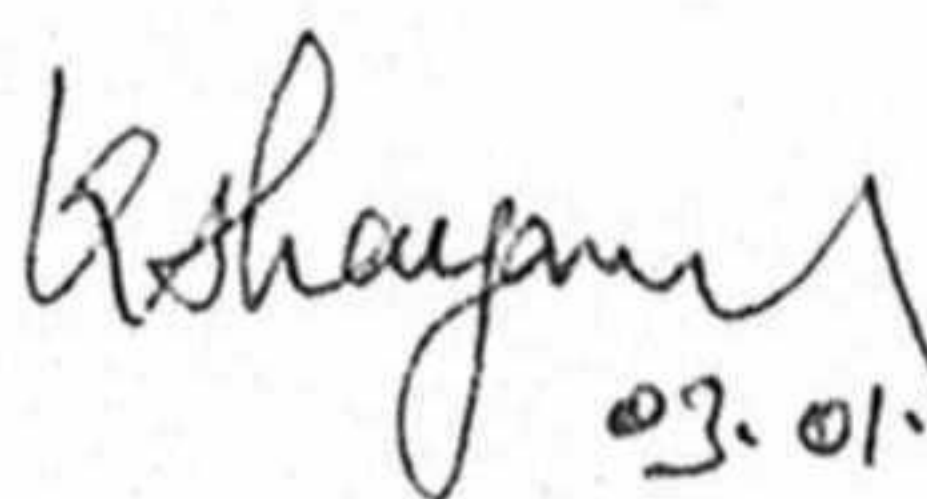
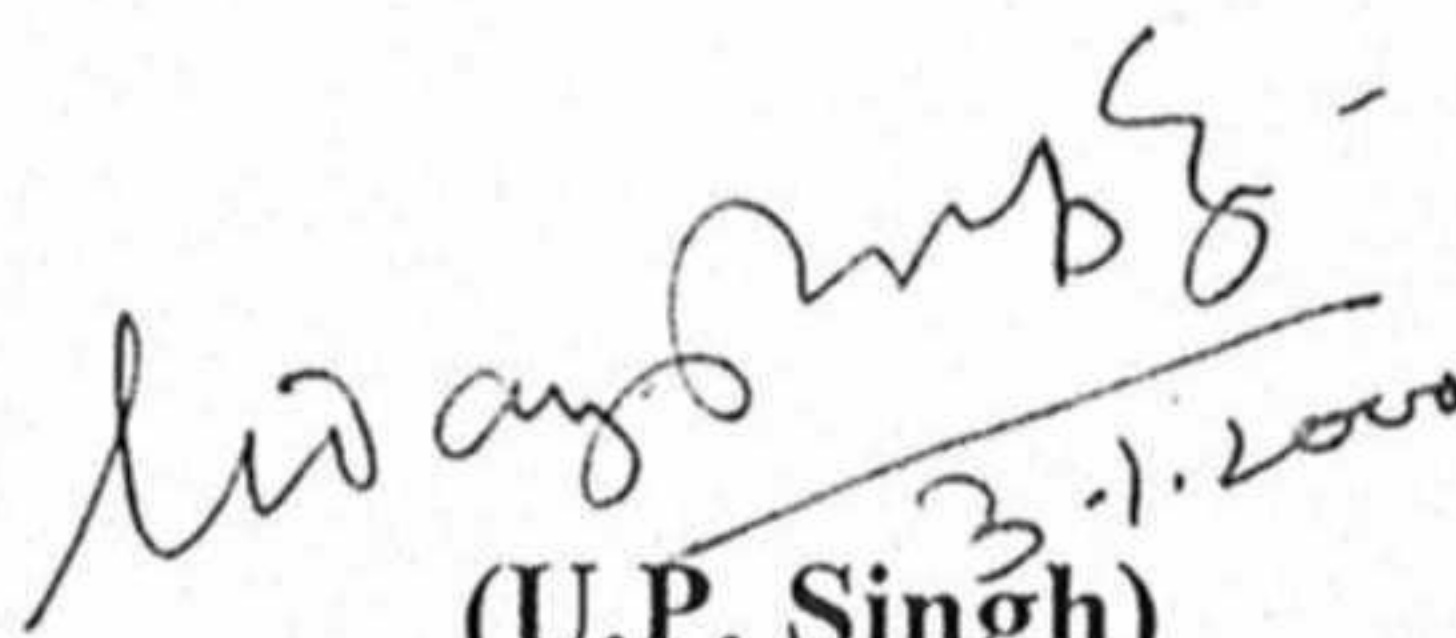
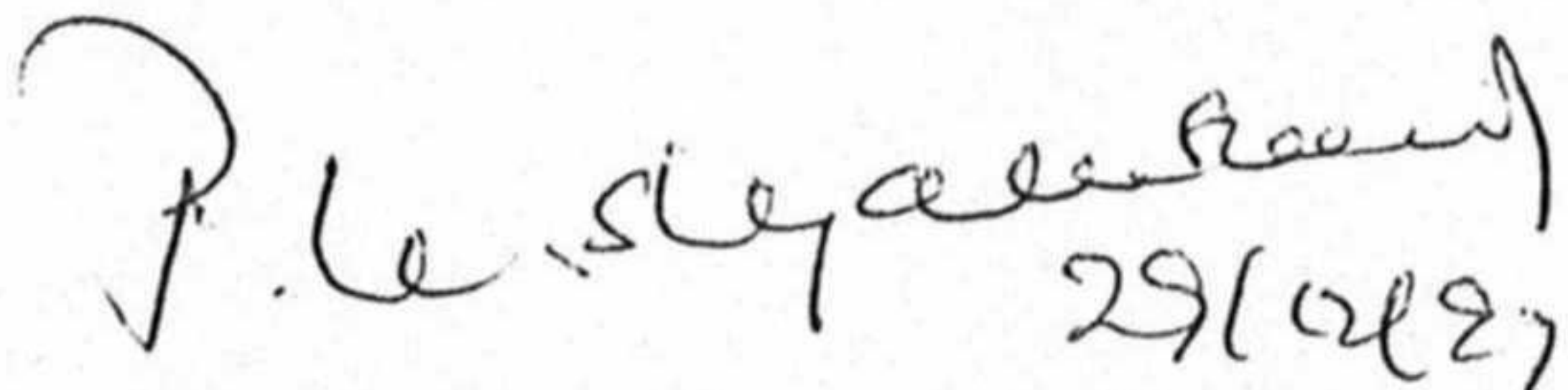
IV. Findings

7. From the above facts and evidence the Bench finds that the "Namdev Maratha" is an artisanal caste/community whose traditional occupation is Dyeing & Printing of cloths. The members of the caste/community are not original dwellers but are migrants and are socially backward. The community thus falls under the "Fast Track" category being covered under item 2(e) – A-Social of the NCBC's "Guidelines for consideration of Requests for Inclusion and Complaints of Under

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inclusion in the Central List of Backward Classes and Para 7 of the "Procedural Clarification on Guidelines". Therefore, "Namdev Maratha" should be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Pondicherry at new entry No.261 as under:

"261.Namdev Maratha"

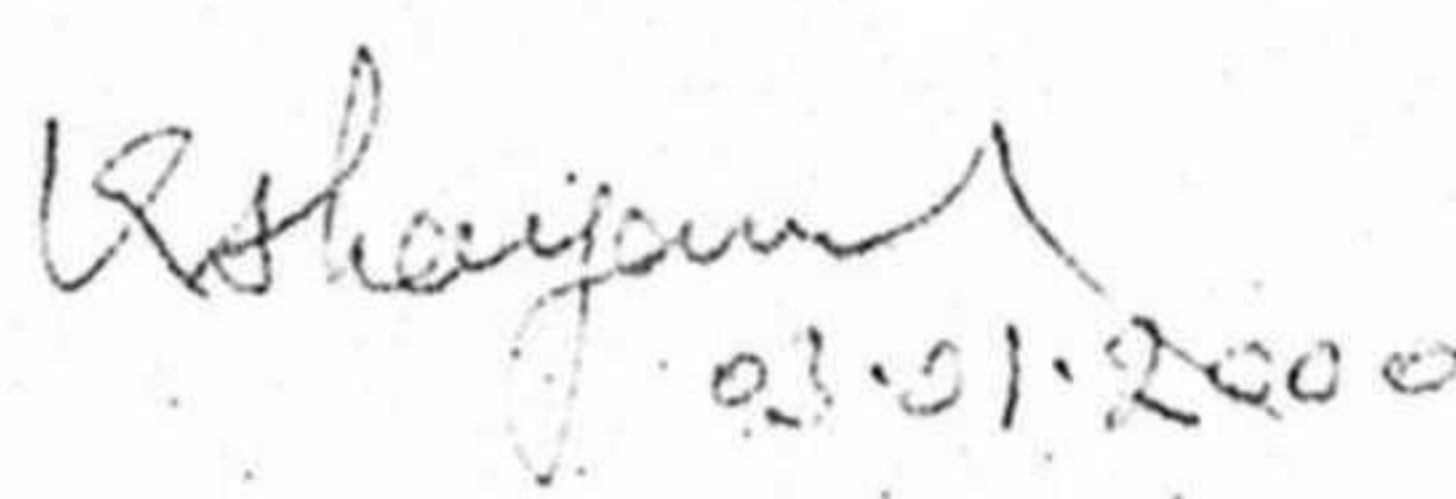
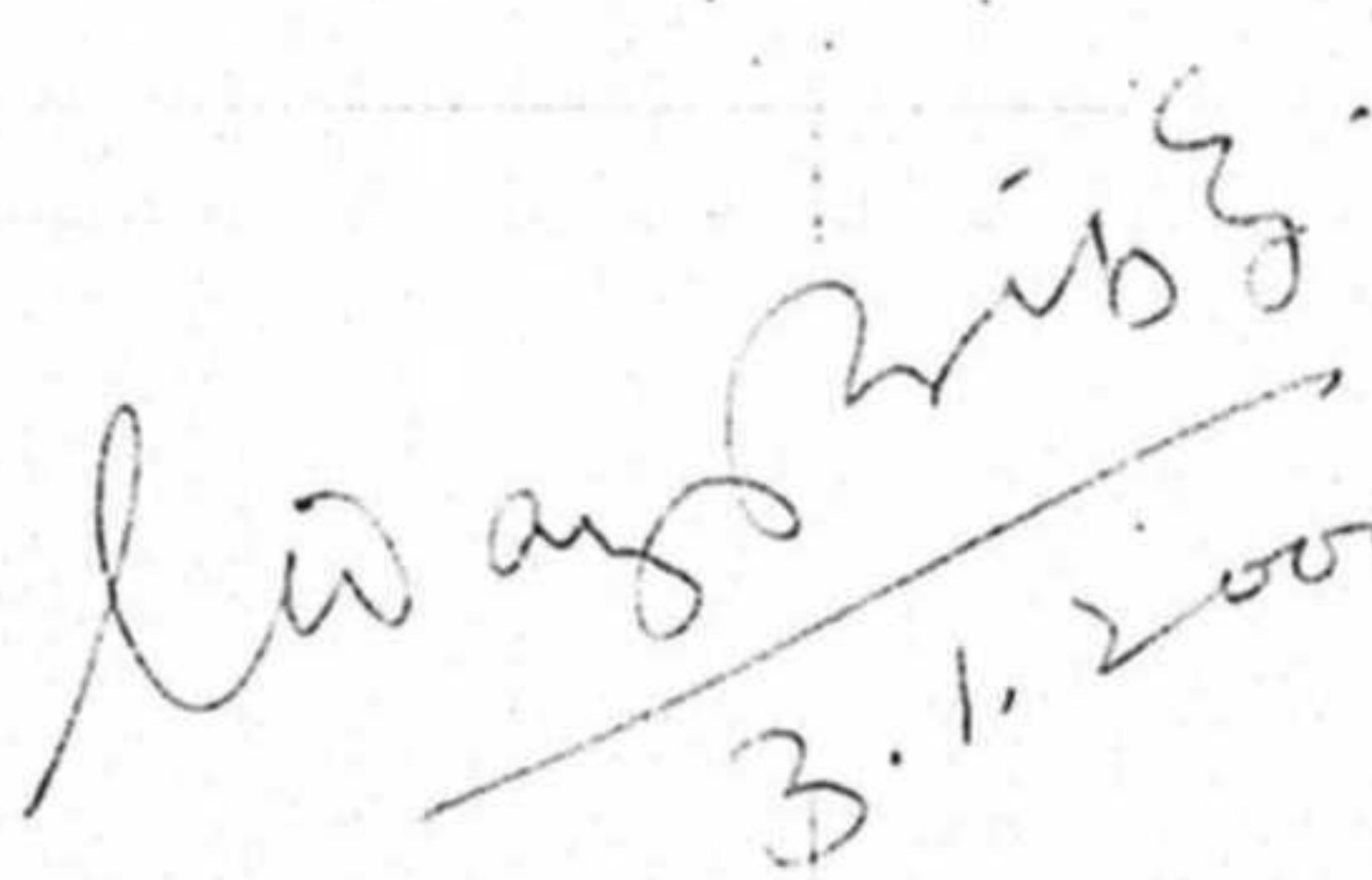
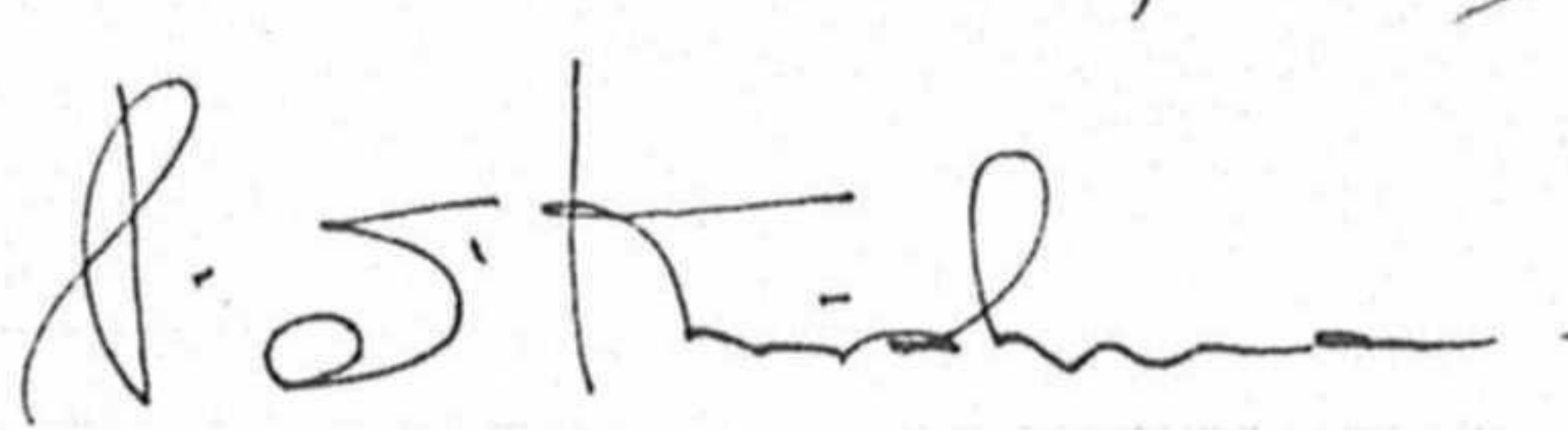
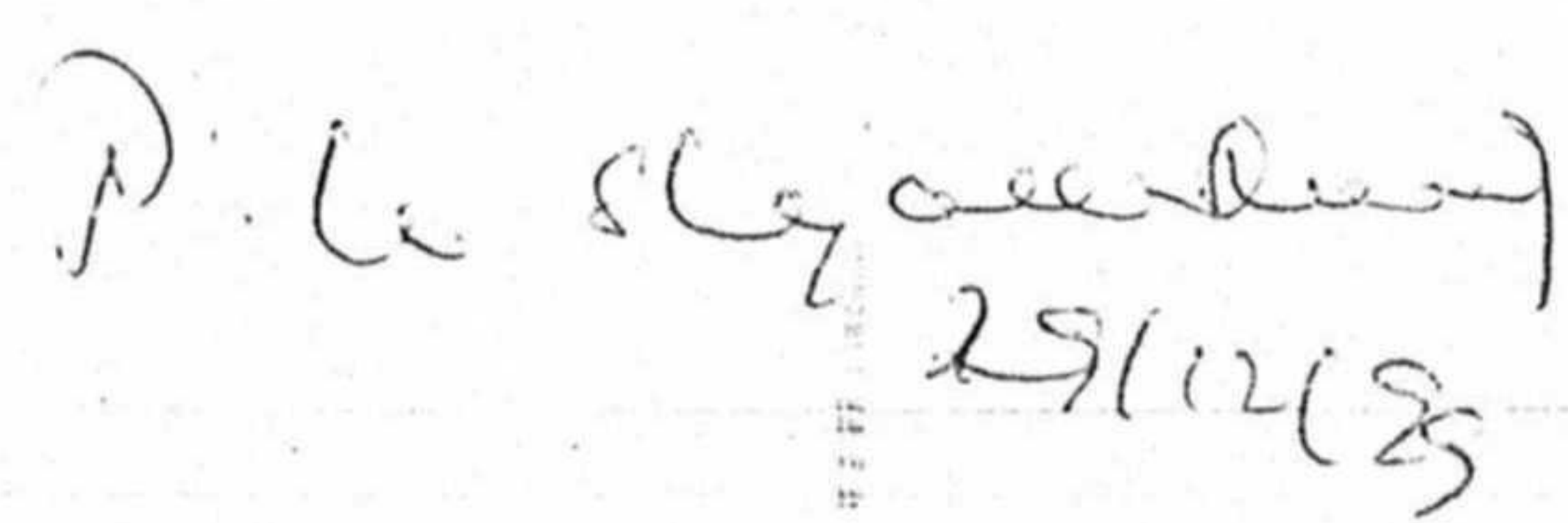
 03.01.2000
 (Sahu Akshaya Bhai)
  3.1.2000
 (U.P. Singh)
  29/12/99
 (Justice P.K. Shyamsundar)

IV. Advice of the Commission

7. The Commission considered and agreed in full with the above Findings of the Pondicherry 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 Govt. under Section 9(2) of the Act:-

"Namdev Maratha" caste/community be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for the U.T. of Pondicherry at new entry No.261 as under:

"261, Namdev Maratha"

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 5.1.2000
 P. S. KRISHNAN
 Member Secretary
 National Commission
 Backward Classes