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सदस्य सचिव
राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग

भारत सरकार
त्रिकूट-१, भीकाजी कामा प्लेस, नई दिल्ली - ११० ०६६
Member Secretary
National Commission for Backward Classes
Government of India
Trikoot - 1, Bhikaiji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110 066

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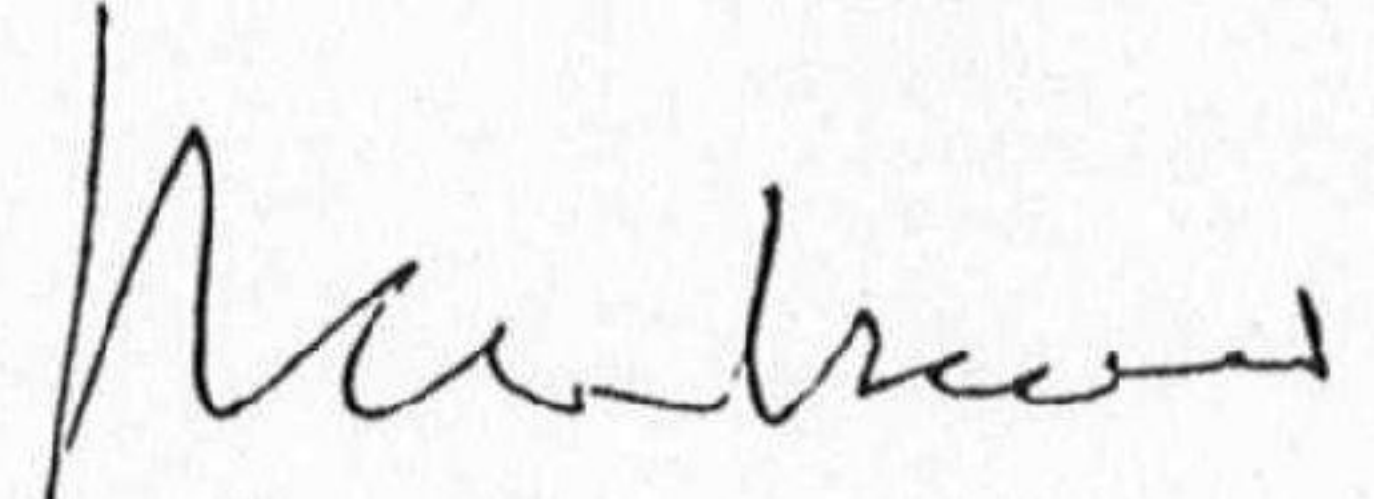
NCBC Advice No. Maharashtra 33/2001

19. 9. 2001

Dear Smt. Asha Das,

I am sending herewith the advice of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act, 1993, for the rejection of the request for inclusion of 'Chakali' caste/sub-caste/community in the Central list of backward classes for Maharashtra, duly authenticated, for necessary action by the Central government under Section 9(2) of the Act.

Yours sincerely


(C. T. Benjamin)

Mrs. Asha Das
Secretary to Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Shastri Bhavan
NEW DELHI 110 001

Encl: As stated

NCBC. Advice No. 33/Maharashtra/2001

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

Maharashtra Bench

FINDINGS

Per Dr. B.M. Das, Member

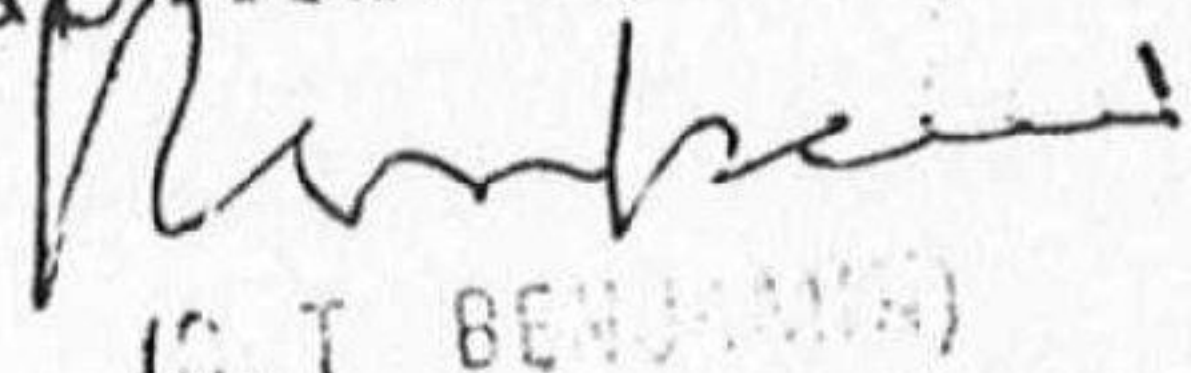
Case:- Request for inclusion of "Chakali" caste/community in the central list of backward classes for the state of Maharashtra.

I. Request

This case arises from the request received in this commission from Shri N.L. Ratnam Raju, 48 Moti Bhavan, 5, Dr. D'Silva Road, Dadar (West) Mumbai-28 for inclusion of "Chakali" caste/community in the central list of backward classes for the state of Maharashtra

II. Public Hearing

2. Of the three-Member Bench of the commission, Shri C.T. Benjamin, Hon'ble Member-Secretary and Dr. B.M. Das, Hon'ble Member of the Commission held a public hearing at Mumbai on 2nd August 2001, regarding the request received in this commission from/on behalf of this caste/community, for its inclusion in the central list of backward classes for the state of Maharashtra. Hon'ble Member Mrs. Neera Shastri, another Member of the Bench could not attend the Public hearing because of her preoccupation. At the public hearing, the state Government was represented by Shri S.N.

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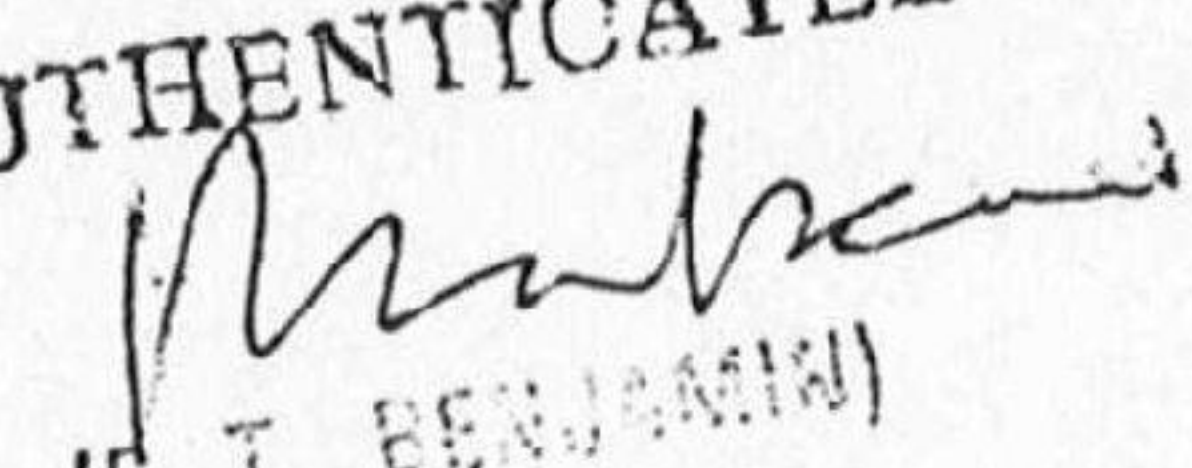
Dhakate, Deputy Secretary, Shri V.W. Meher, Section Officer, Department of Social Welfare, Govt. of Maharashtra, Shri H.R. Tikekar, Director, Vimukta Jati & Nomadic Tribes Development Corporation (VJNT) and Shri R.N. Mokashi, Office Superintendent, State Backward Classes Commission, Pune and others. The caste/community was represented by Shri N.L. Ratnamraju, Shri Shyam Y. Vargaunte, Shri B.D. Suratwala, Shri Chhotelal S. Kanogia and others.

III. Facts

3. "Chakali" caste/community is not included in the central list of backward classes for the state of Maharashtra on the basis of the principle of commonality (as it was not included in Mandal list & state list and therefore did not satisfy the criterion of commonality).

4. In the written representation received from Shri N.L. Ratnam Raju for inclusion of 'Chakali' caste/community in the central list of BCs for Maharashtra, it is stated that the people of Chakali caste/community migrated from Andhra Pradesh and permanently settled in Maharashtra for the last many decades. 'They are engaged in homogeneous profession of washing clothes. Their population in Maharashtra is more than one lakh. They are acute poor, their lives are brutish and hard, worse than the scavengers.'

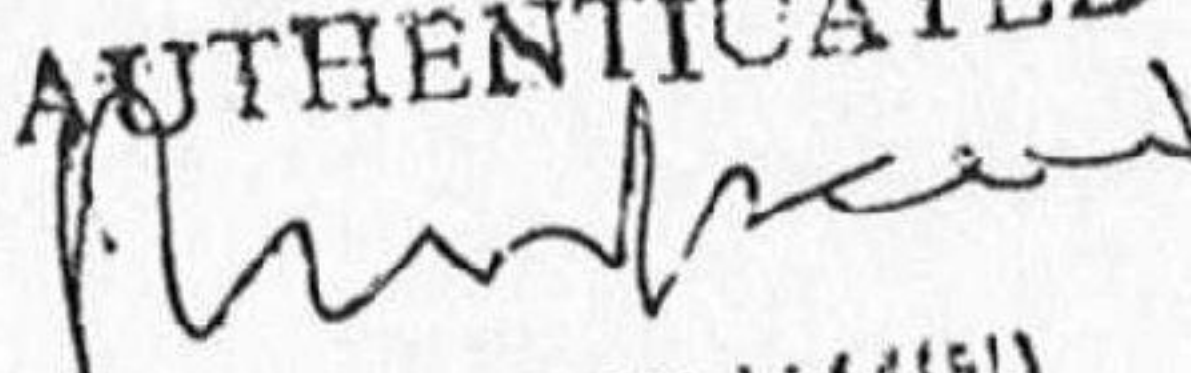
It is mentioned in the representation that the concerned officials of the State Govt. of Maharashtra refuse to issue caste certificate in the name of 'Chakali' which is synonymous with Dhobi/Parit. Therefore, the Chakalis approached the State Backward Classes Commission and furnished information about their community in the prescribed proforma. The State BC Commission conducted a survey and collected data from the caste/community in Mumbai. But, the caste has not been included in the State List of BCs. Hence, they appealed to the NCBC for inclusion in the Central List of BCs for Maharashtra.

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5. During the public hearing, Shri. N.L. Ratnam Raju informed the Bench that the name Chakali is a Telugu name for Dhobi (washerman) and the main occupation of the caste/community is "washing clothes". The total population of Chakali caste/community is about 1,00,000 and concentrated in Mumbai, Pune, Nagapur, Nasik and Solapur. While 75,000 members of the caste/community live in Mumbai & Pune, the rest live in other cities. He told the Bench that their economic condition is very poor and socially they are very much lower than other castes/communities in the state. He added that no one from their caste/community is represented in the Indian Administrative Services, Parliament, Legislative Assemblies, or even Panchayats. He also added that only a few of them are in government services. He mentioned that the literacy rate of their caste/community is mere 5%. He told the Bench that majority of their community members is engaged in the traditional occupation of washing clothes and estimated their income at Rs.50/- per day.

6. When the Bench Members questioned about the social status of Chakali in society, he stated that they are treated as untouchables. The Bench Members asked him to elaborate the above statement. But, he could not produce any evidence to show that such a treatment is being meted out to them. However, he maintained that in Mumbai and other cities, Chakalis do not face any social ostracism but in rural areas there is discrimination against the members of the community. He stressed the fact that 'Chakali' is on par with Dhobi or Parit in social and occupational aspects and also claimed that Chakali is a synonym of Rajak caste/community. But, he clarified that they do not intermarry with Rajak caste/community. Further, he stated that 'Chakali' has been included in the list of BCs in the state of Andhra Pradesh. He also pointed out that many castes with Telugu names are included in the backward classes list of Maharashtra and therefore Chakali caste/community should also be included.

7. Shri B.D. Suratwala who belongs to Gujarati Dhobi community added that Chakali is a synonym of Dhobi. He also described the low social, educational and economic conditions of the Dhobi. He urged the Bench Members that Chakali be included in the list of backward classes. Shri Chhotelal S. Kanogia, a member of Chakali

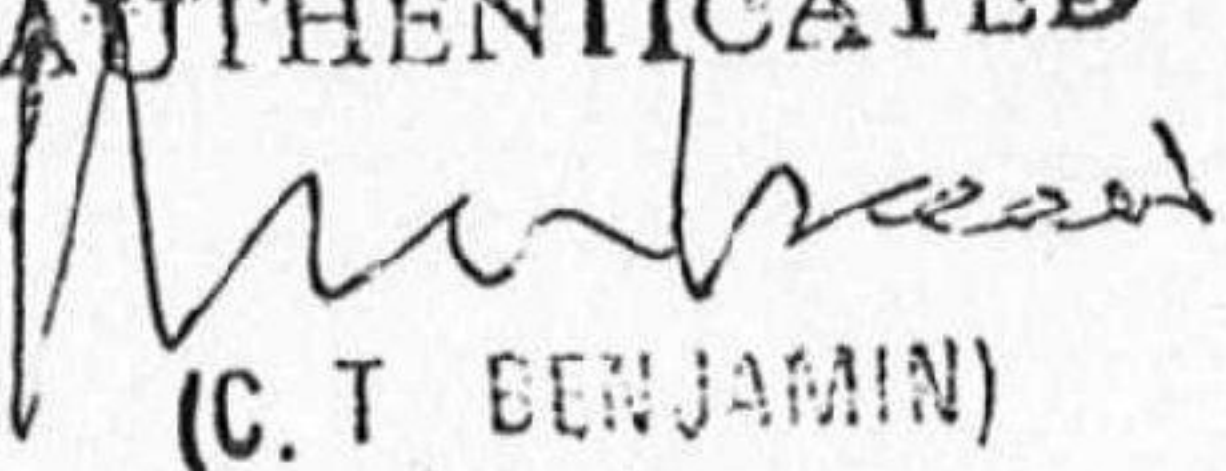
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community, stated that Chakali caste/community members are engaged in the occupation of washing soiled clothes. He also stated that they are very poor and illiterate and therefore should be included in the list of backward classes.

8. The State Backward Classes Commission conducted a survey in respect of Chakali caste/community in view of request for inclusion of the Chakali/Rajak in the OBC list of the State, and found that this group has made good progress in its social, educational and economic status. A copy of the State Commission's report to the state government was made available to the NCBC in Marathi language. The report states that according to the criteria set by the State Commission the Chakali/Rajak caste/community scored only four (4) marks out of fifty (50) marks. About 18.33% male and 8.73% female of this community are engaged in manual labour. Nearly 34.16% male and 51.59% female are literate. While 27.27% of the families of caste/community live in Kachha houses, 10.36% are below the poverty line. Further, the report states that 20.45% families of this caste/community own vehicles and 59.00% families have television sets in their houses. From the foregoing statistical data, the State Commission found that the Chakkali/Rajak is a developing caste/community in the state of Maharashtra and therefore advised the state government to reject the request for its inclusion in the list of backward classes.

9. The Bench took note of the fact that the caste/community Chakali which is said to have migrated from Andhra Pradesh to Maharashtra is not included in the central list of backward classes in its native state of Andhra Pradesh.

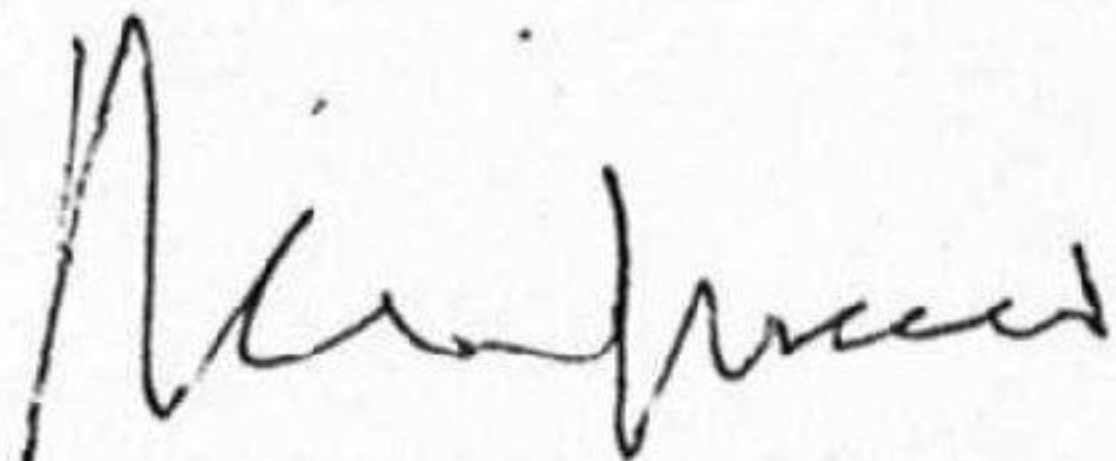
10. The Bench is of the view that it would not be appropriate to classify a caste/community, which is socially backward in its native state, as backward in a state to which it has migrated unless there is evidence to show that it is socially and educationally backward. No evidence whatsoever has been produced before the Bench to establish the social backwardness of this community in Maharashtra. During discussion about the social status of the community, the representative of the community clearly stated that the community has cordial relations with other communities and is not

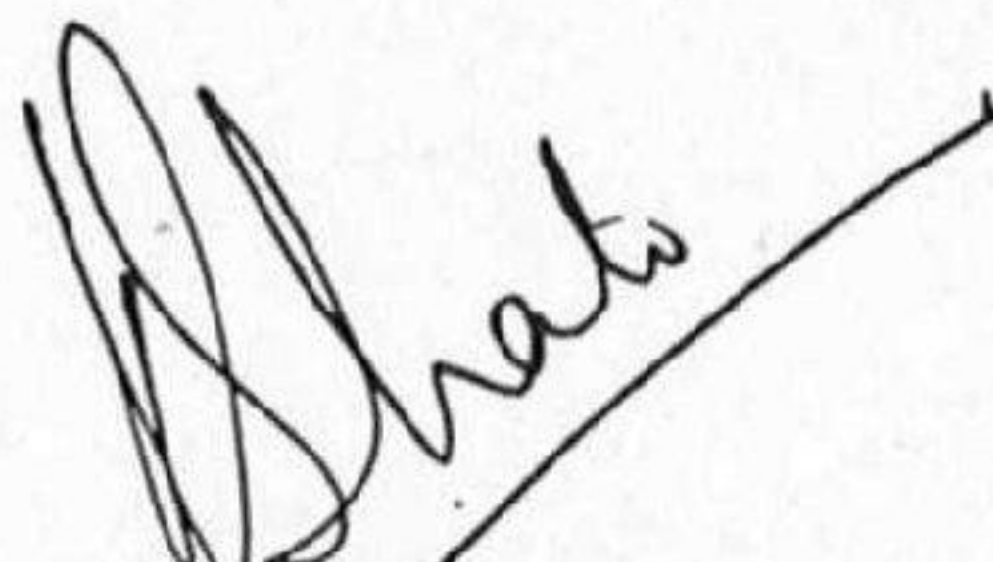
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discriminated against by other communities in the state of Maharashtra. The inclusion of the community in Andhra Pradesh and elsewhere is not a ground for its inclusion in the central list of backward classes for the state of Maharashtra. Available statistical data from the State Commission in respect of Chakali/Rajaka community, and other evidence adduced before the Bench do not show that this community is socially backward.

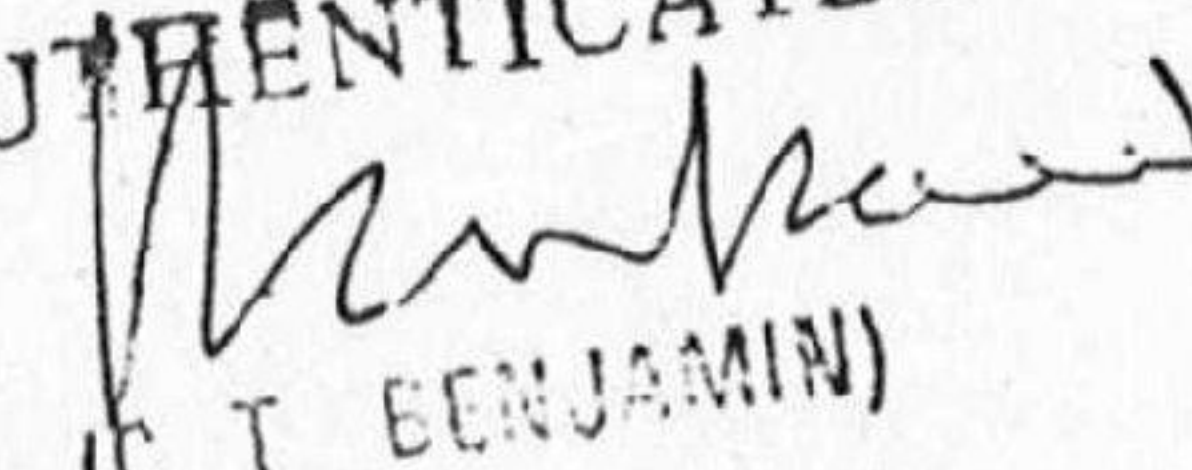
IV Findings

11. On the basis of the above evidence and material, it is the finding of the Bench that the caste/community 'Chakali' is not socially backward in Maharashtra as has also been made out by the State Commission. Therefore, the request for inclusion of "Chakali" caste/sub-caste/community in the central list of backward classes for Maharashtra should be rejected, as it is not socially backward.


(C T BENJAMIN)


(NEERA SHASTRI)

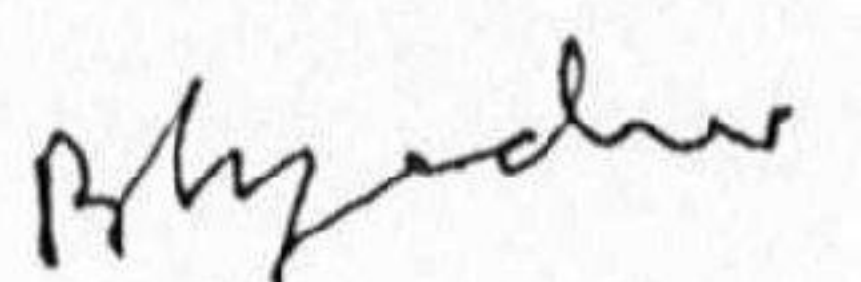

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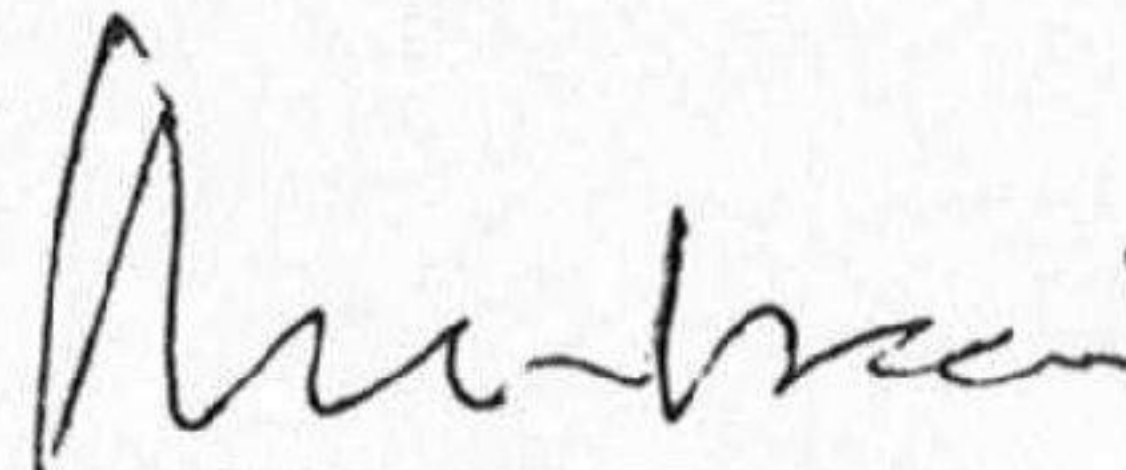
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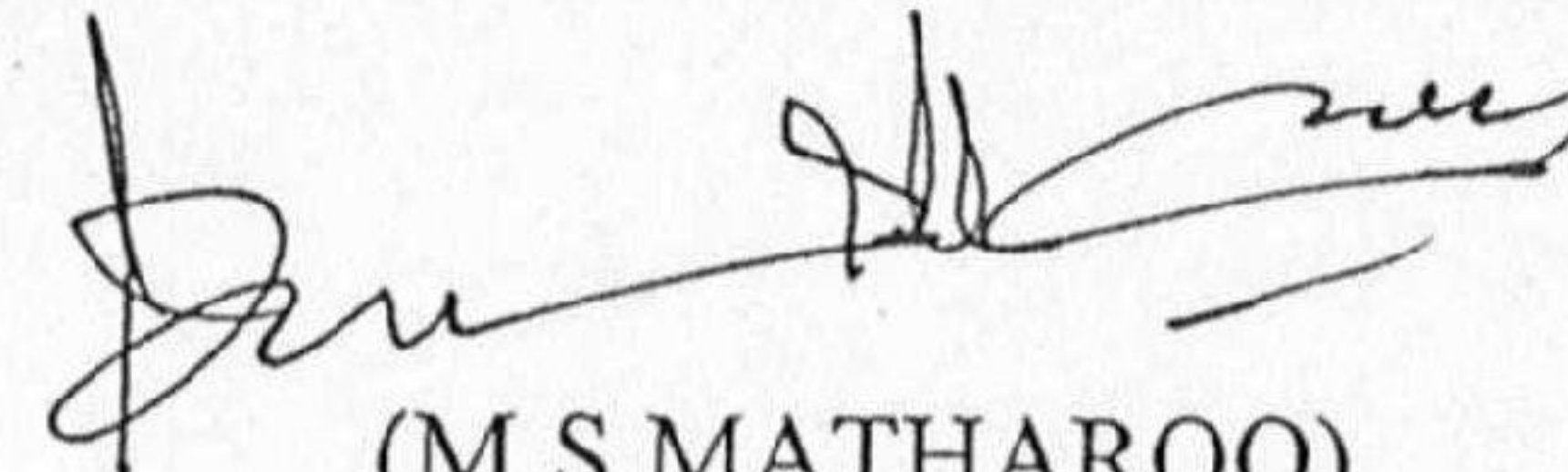
V. Advice of the Commission

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 1993 for action by the Central Government under section 9(2) of the Act:

"The request for inclusion of "Chakali" caste/sub-caste/community in the central list of backward classes for the state of Maharashtra be rejected as they are not socially and educationally backward.

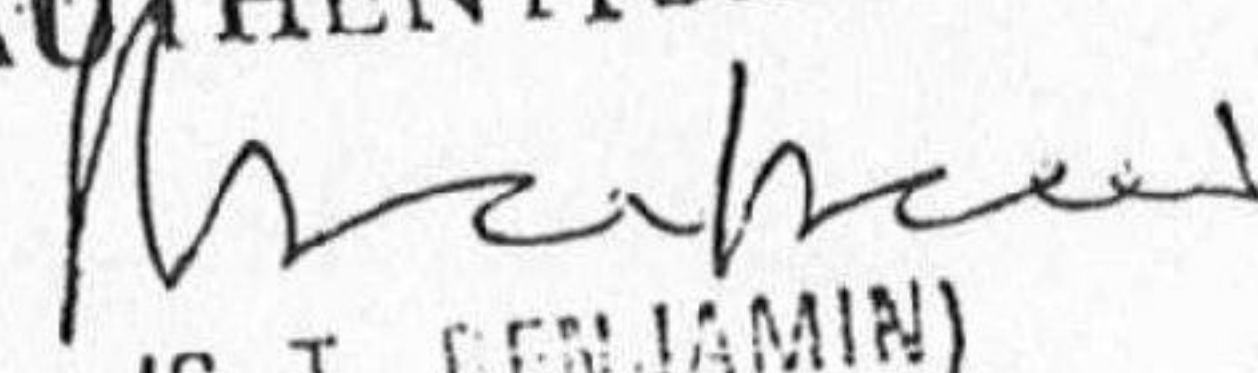

(Justice B L YADAV)


(C T BENJAMIN)


(M S MATHAROO)


(NEERA SHASTRI)


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