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भारत सरकार
त्रिकूट-१, भीकाजी कामा प्लेस, नई दिल्ली - ११००६६

Member - Secretary
National Commission for Backward Classes
Government of India
Trikool - 1, Bhikaiji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110 06

NCBC Advice No. M.P. 30/1998

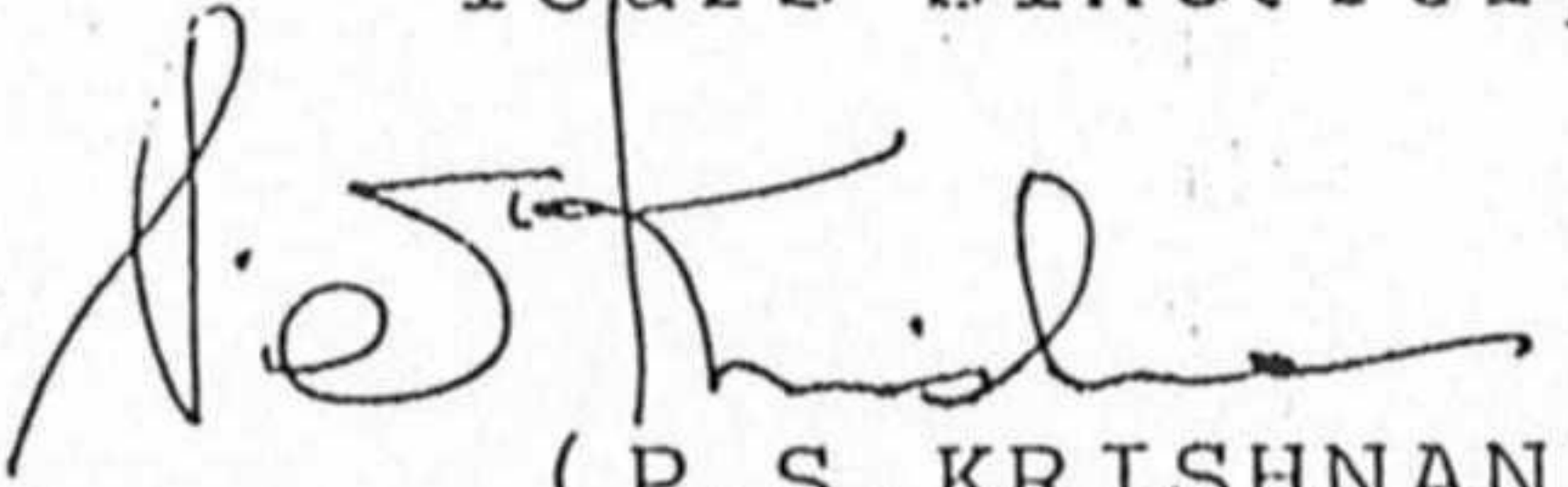
02. 12. 1998

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 "Mirdha(excluding Jat Muslims)" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Madhya Pradesh, duly authenticated, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the Act.

2. With this, Advices on 474(276 for Inclusion + 198 for Rejection) castes, sub-castes, synonyms etc. have been tendered to the Government by the Commission, after its reconstitution in 1997, of which 468 (270 for Inclusion + 198 for Rejection) are still pending with the Government for Notification.

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

e/c

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

MADHYA PRADESH BENCH

FINDINGS

CASE : REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF "MIRDHA" CASTE/COMMUNITY IN THE CENTRAL LIST OF BACKWARD CLASSES FOR MADHYA PRADESH.

PER SHRI SAHU AKSHAYA BHAI, MEMBER

I. REQUEST

This case arises from the Request received from the President, Federation Muslim Backward Classes, Bhopal and M.P. Muslim Pichhada Varg, Vikas Parishad, Bhopal, M.P. for the inclusion of "Mirdha" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Madhya Pradesh. They have not filled-up the NCBC's Questionnaire in respect of their caste/community.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

2. The 3-Member Madhya Pradesh Bench of the Commission, consisting of Hon'ble Members S/Shri Sahu Akshaya Bhai, U.P. Singh and Navtej Puadhi held a Public Hearing at Bhopal on 4-6-98 to examine the Request for inclusion of "Mirdha" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Madhya Pradesh.

The State Government was represented by Shri A.L. Naharia, Secretary and Shri N.R. Singh, Deputy Director of State Backward Classes Commission and Shri M.L. Khanna, Asstt. Director and Shri S.P. Tewari, Research Officer of Directorate of Backward Classes Welfare. The Community was represented by Mohd. Ibrahim Qureshi, President, M.P. Muslim Pichhada Varg, Vikas Parishad (Regd.), Bhopal, M.P.

III. FACTS

3. The caste/community is not included in the Mandal List but included under Islamic Group in the State List of Backward Classes vide its notification no. F. 23-4-97-54-1 dated 2nd April, 1997 as follows:-

"87(13) Mirdha"
"87(13) मिरधा"

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National Commission
for Backward Classes

4. Russell & Hira Lal in the Book – “The Tribes and Castes of the Central Provinces of India (Asian Educational Services, New Delhi 1993; Vol I) states that Mirdha – A small caste found only in the Narsinghpur District. They are a branch of the Khangar or Dahait caste of Saugor and Damoh. The names of their exogamous sections tally with those of the Khangars, and they have the same story of their ancestors having been massacred at a fort in Orchha State and of one pregnant woman escaping and hiding under a kusum tree (*Schleichera trijuga*), which consequently they revere. Like Khangars they regard Muhammadan eunuchs and Fakirs (beggars) with special friendship, on the ground that it was a Fakir who sheltered their ancestress when the rest of the caste were massacred by Rajputs, and Fakirs do not beg at their weddings. One explanation of the name is that this section of the caste were born from a Muhammadan father and a Dahait woman, and hence were called Mir-Dahaits or Mirdaha, mir being a Muhammadan title. Mirdha is, however, as noted by Mr Hira Lal, the name of the head of the caste committee among the Dahatis; and in Hoshangabad he is a servant of the village proprietor and acts as assistant to the Kotwar or village watchman; he realises the rents from the tenants, and sometimes works as a night guard. In Gujarat the name is said to be a corruption of mir-deh or ‘mason of the village’. Here it is said that the Mirdhas are held to be of part foreign, part Rajput origin, and were originally official spies of the Gujarat sultans. They are now employed as messengers and constables, and therefore seem to be analogous to the same class of persons in the Central Provinces. (p. 390)

5. Mirdhas in Madhya Pradesh are both Hindu and Muslims. Hindu Mirdhas in Madhya Pradesh are included in the Scheduled Castes List at entry no. 33 along with Khangar and Kanera. From the comments furnished by the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh to the M.P. Bench during the Public Hearing on the 15th September 1998, it is seen that entry at Sl. No. 52 of Mirdhas in the M.P. State List of Backward Classes under Hindu was deleted w.e.f. 30.08.1995 as they are included in the Scheduled Castes List of the State.

6. The Mahajan Commission, set up by the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, in its Report (Part – I), has described the profession of Muslim Mirdhas like that of Hindu Mirdhas which is of care-taker and watchman. The total population of Muslim Mirdhas as indicated by Mahajan Commission in their Report (Part – II) is 30,105, while the district wise data of their population is not available in the Report.

7. During the Public Hearing the representatives of community stated before the Bench that occupation of “Mirdha” caste/community is to assist the Kotwar or village watchman. Literacy rate of the caste/community is very low. Majority of population live in ‘Kachcha houses’. Their representation in the State Govt. Services is negligible. Therefore, the caste/community is socially & educationally backward and should be added in the Central List of Backward Classes for Madhya Pradesh.

The representatives of the community and those present who were from different sections of society and state govt. not only did not object to the Request, but also supported it.

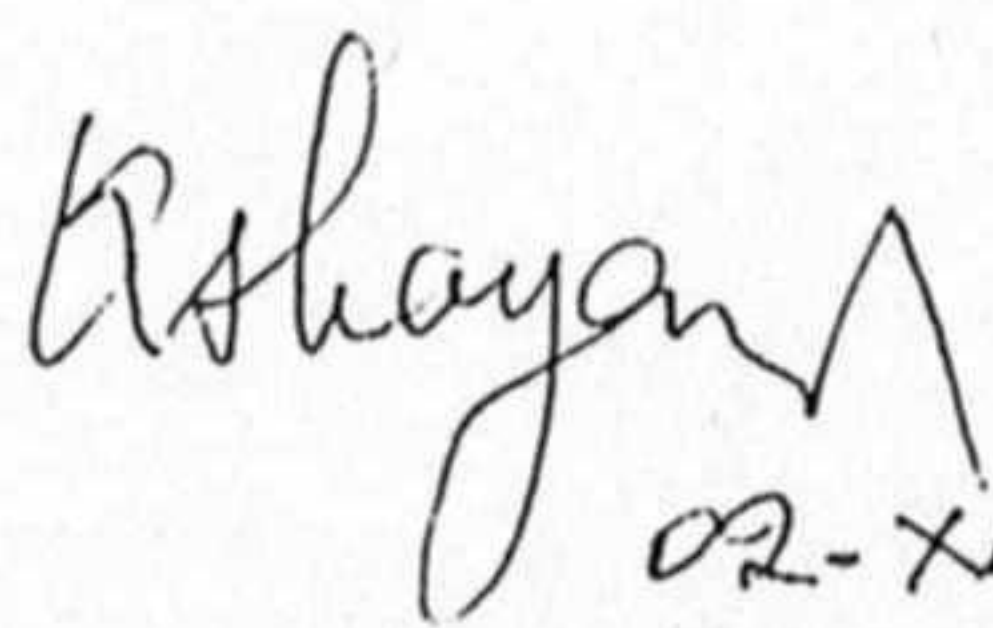
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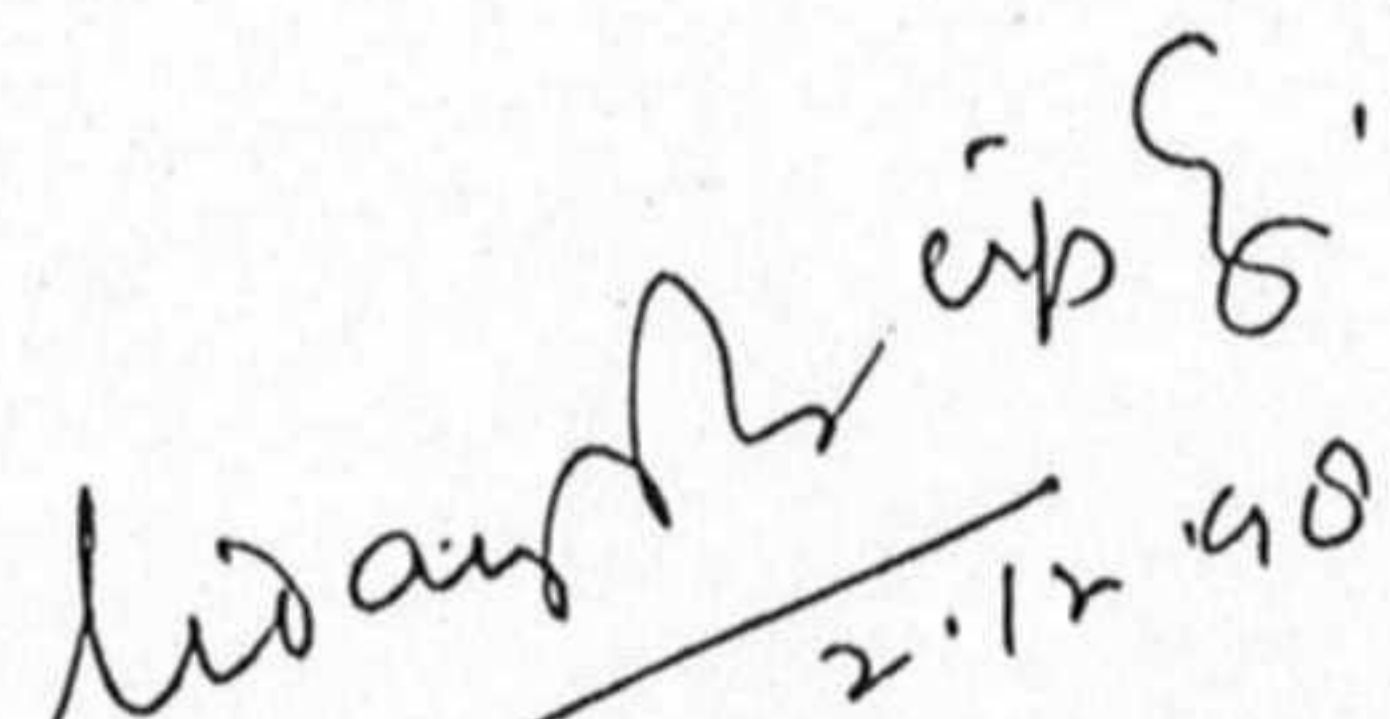
IV FINDINGS

8. From the above facts and evidence the Bench concludes that "Mirdha" is a socially and educationally backward caste/community and it should be included under the existing category of Islamic Group in the Central List of Backward Classes for Madhya Pradesh. The Bench learnt that "Mirdha" is also used as a surname by some sections of Jats, particularly in Rajasthan which is a neighbouring state of Madhya Pradesh. In order to avoid any scope for misunderstanding or for some persons of unintended communities seeking/getting Backward Class Certificates in the name of 'Mirdha' as a measure of abundant caution, the Bench finds it is advisable to word the entry in such a way that Mirdhas who are Muslim Jats are not included. Therefore, 'Mirdha' should be included in the Central List for Backward Classes for Madhya Pradesh under the Islamic group as follows:-

"59(24) Mirdha" (excluding Jat Muslims)

As one of the Members of the Bench, Shri Navtej Puadhi unfortunately passed away on 16.08.1998, subsequent to the public hearing, the Findings are signed only by two Members, including the co-ordinating Member of the Bench, but the Findings represent the conclusion jointly arrived at by three Members.


02-XI-98
(SAHU AKSHAYA BHAI)


2.12.98
(U.P. SINGH)

AUTHENTICATED

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

IV. ADVICE OF THE COMMISSION

9. The Commission considered and agreed in full with Findings of the Madhya Pradesh Bench and decided to tender the following Advice to the Central Government as per section 9(1) of the NCBC Act, 1993, for action by the Central Govt. under section 9(2) of the Act:-

"Mirdha" be included under Islamic Group in the Central List of Backward Classes for *Madhya Pradesh* as a new entry at Sl. No. 59(24) as under:-

"59(24) Mirdha" (excluding Jat Muslims)

On account of the unfortunate demise of one of the Members Shri Navtej Puadhi on 16.08.1998, 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.

Rishayon
02-XII-98

Handwritten signature: *Handwritten signature*

25. Thick
2-12-98.

Alfred Reed
2.1.21

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