



पी० एस० कृष्णन्
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सदस्य-सचिव
राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग
भारत सरकार
त्रिकुट-१, भीकाजी कामा प्लेस, नई दिल्ली-११००६६

Member-Secretary
National Commission for Backward Classes
Government of India
Trikoot-1, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066

NCBC Advice No.57-59/Karnataka/97/
September 10,1997

Dear Shri Baksi,

I am sending herewith the Advice of the National Commission for Backward Classes under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act 1993 for rejection of the Requests of following castes of Karnataka seeking their inclusion in the Central List of Backward Classes for Karnataka for necessary action under Section 9(2) of the Act by the Central Government:

1. Kamma
2. Namadhari Nagartha
3. Bunt alias Nadava

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

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

Encl: As Stated

Shri K.K.Baksi
Secretary
Ministry of Welfare
Shastri Bhavan
New Delhi-110001

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

KARNATAKA BENCH

Findings

Case: Request for Inclusion of "Kamma" caste in the Central List of Backward Classes for Karnataka

I. Request

This case arises from the Request recieved in this Commission from Shri M.Diwakar Bibu, c/o M.Lakshmi Devamma, 12, T.B.Sanitorium Road, Near Belaga Cross, Bellary, Karnataka for the Inclusion "Kamma" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Karnataka.

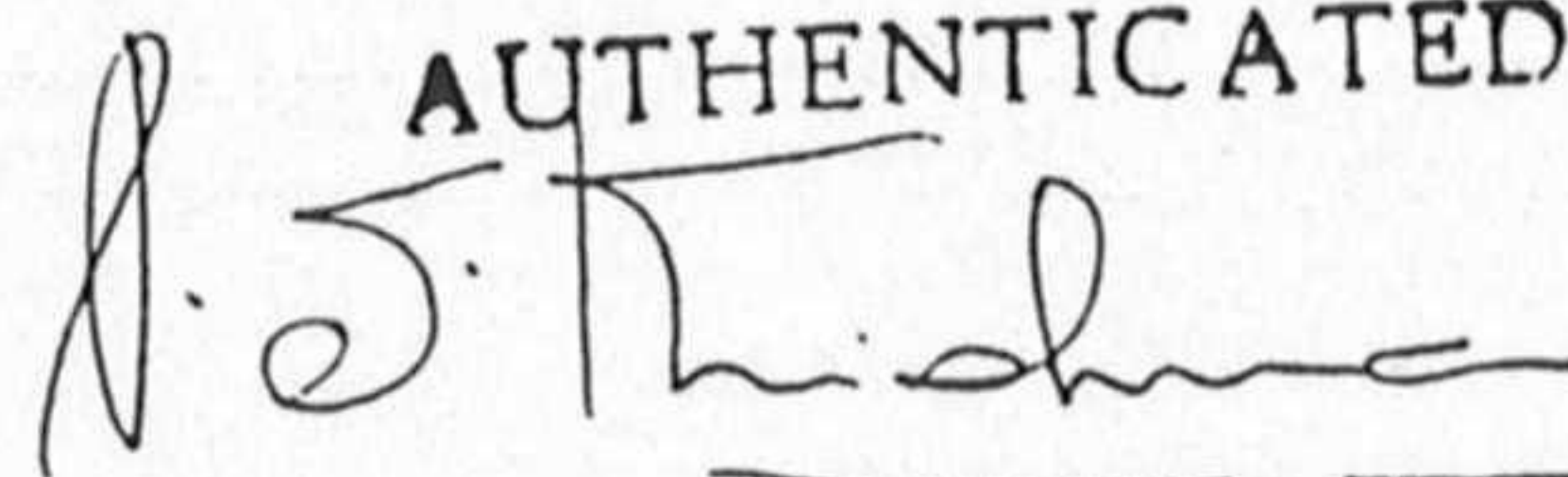
II. Public Hearing

2. The two-Member Karnataka Bench of the Commission consisting of Hon'ble Justice Shri P.K.Shyamsundar, Chairperson, NCBC and Shri P.S.Krishnan, Hon'ble Member-Secretary, NCBC held a Public Hearing at Bangalore on 22.7.1997 to examine this Request. At the Public Hearing the State Government was represented by Shri K. Narayan, Director, Backward Classes and Minorities Deptt., Shri Krishna Gowda, Joint-Director and other officers of the Backward Classes and Minorities Deptt. The community was represented by Shri N.S.Sudhakar.

III. Facts

3. The Karnataka State List of Backward Classes is divided into a number of groups which underwent modifications from time to time. In the list that existed at the time of the preparation of the first-phase Central List of Backward Classes on the principle of commonality, there were 5 groups, viz., Group-A,

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P. S. KRISHNAN

Group-B, Group-C, Group D and Group E. In the latest State List which was issued with GO No. SWD 150 BCA 94 dated 17.9.1994 there are again 5 groups, renamed as Categories, viz., Category I, Category II(A), Category II(B), Category III(A) and Category III(B). "Kamma" caste/community is not included in either the State List that existed at the time of preparation of the first-phase Central List or in the latest State List. Kamma as a synonym of Vokkaliga is included in both these State Lists as follows:-

(i) Latest State List

"Category III(A)"

- "1. (a) Vokkaliga
(b) Vakkaliga
.....
(p) Kamma
....."

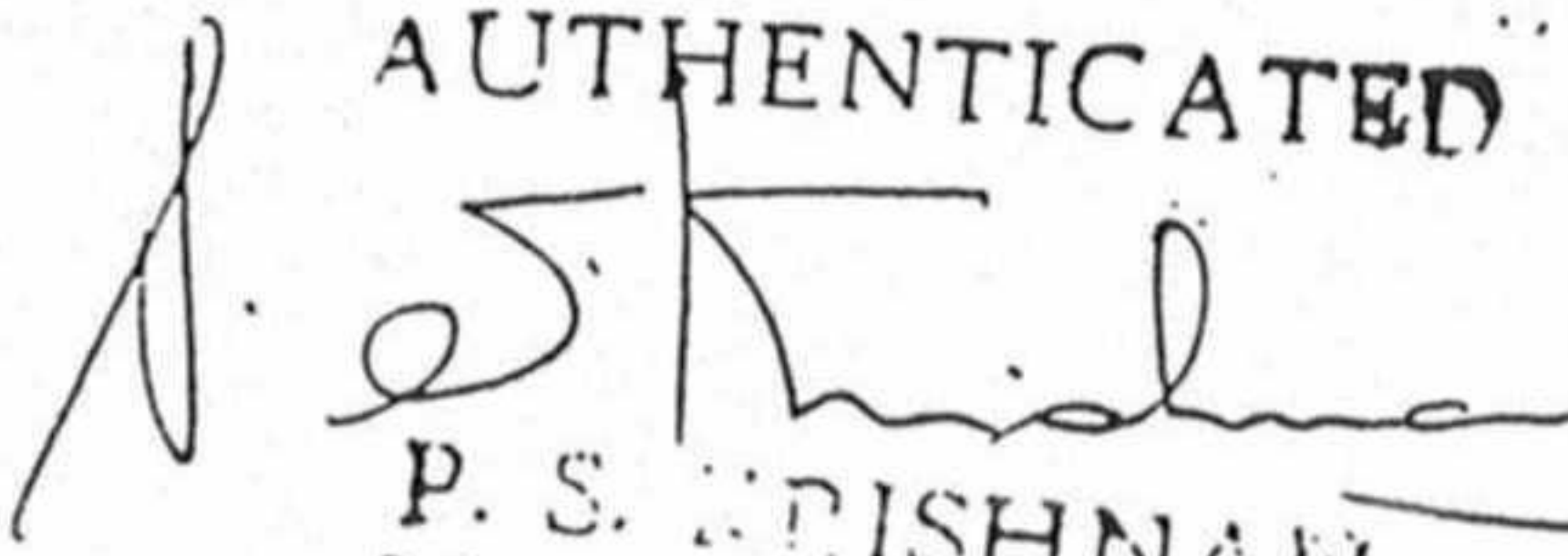
(iii) The State List that existed at the time of the preparation of the first-phase Central List

"Group C"

- "2. (a) Vokkaliga
(b) Vakkaliga
.....
(i) Kamma
....."

"Kamma" caste/community is not included in the Mandal Commission's List of Backward Classes for Karnataka either as a synonym of Vokkaliga or as a separate entry. For this reason,

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

in the Central List of Backward Classes for Karnataka also "Kamma" is not included either as as a synonym of Vokkaliga or as a separate entry. In the case of "Vokkaliga", both the Mandal List and the Central List of Backward Classes include only the members of the community residing in rural areas, as is shown by the following relevant entries:-

(i) Mandal List:-

"327. Vokkaliga (Rural areas only)"

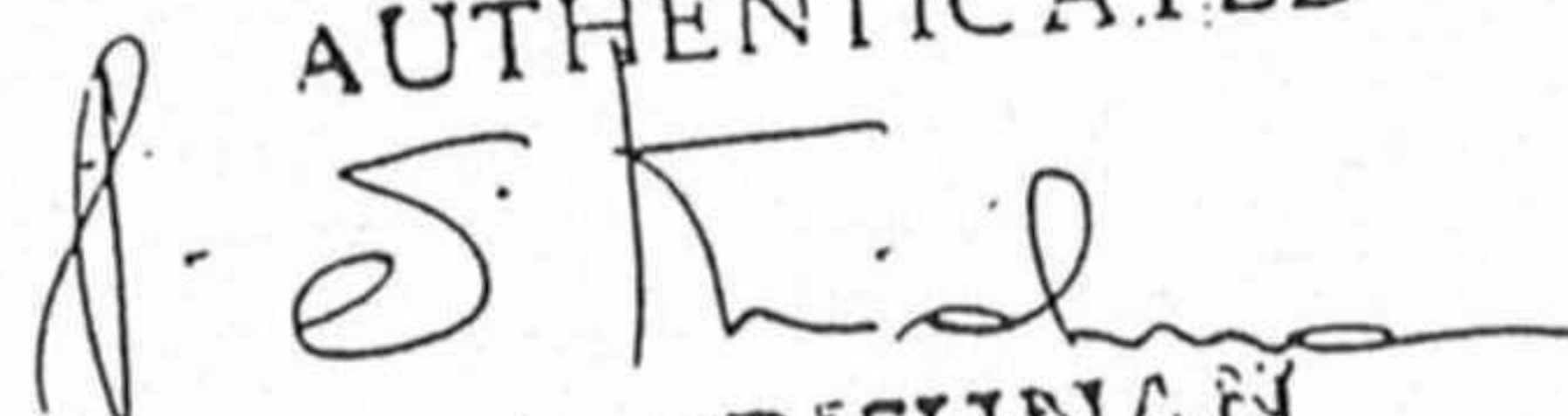
(ii) Central List:-

"156. Vokkaligg/
Vakkaliga/
Sarpavokkaliga" } "Rural areas only"

4. "Kamma" caste/community was not included in the State List of Backward Classes issued by the GO No.GAD 32 ORR 59 dated 19.7.1959. About this GO, there is a reference in the Order of the High Court of Karnataka dated 9.4.79 in Writ Petition Numbers 4371, 5925, 6741, 7772 and 11603/77, pronounced in Somasekharappa and Others Vs. State of Karnataka and the Karnataka Public Service Commission, which inter alia reads as follows:- "By the said Order, except Brahmins, Banias and Kayasthas all other castes of Hindu religion as existing in the State were classified as Backward Classes. Since Bania and Kayasthas are not castes of Karnataka, this Order includes virtually all castes except Brahmins. Even in this virtually all-inclusive list, "Kamma" is not included either independently or as a synonym. The List of 1959 was quashed by the High Court of Karnataka in Ramakrishna Singh Rama Singh v. the State of Mysore (A.I.R. 1960 Mysore 338) on the ground that it was not in conformity with the Constitution of India.

5. "Kamma" caste/community was not included in the List of Backward Classes recommended by the Mysore Backward Classes (Nagan Gowda) Committee which was set up by the State

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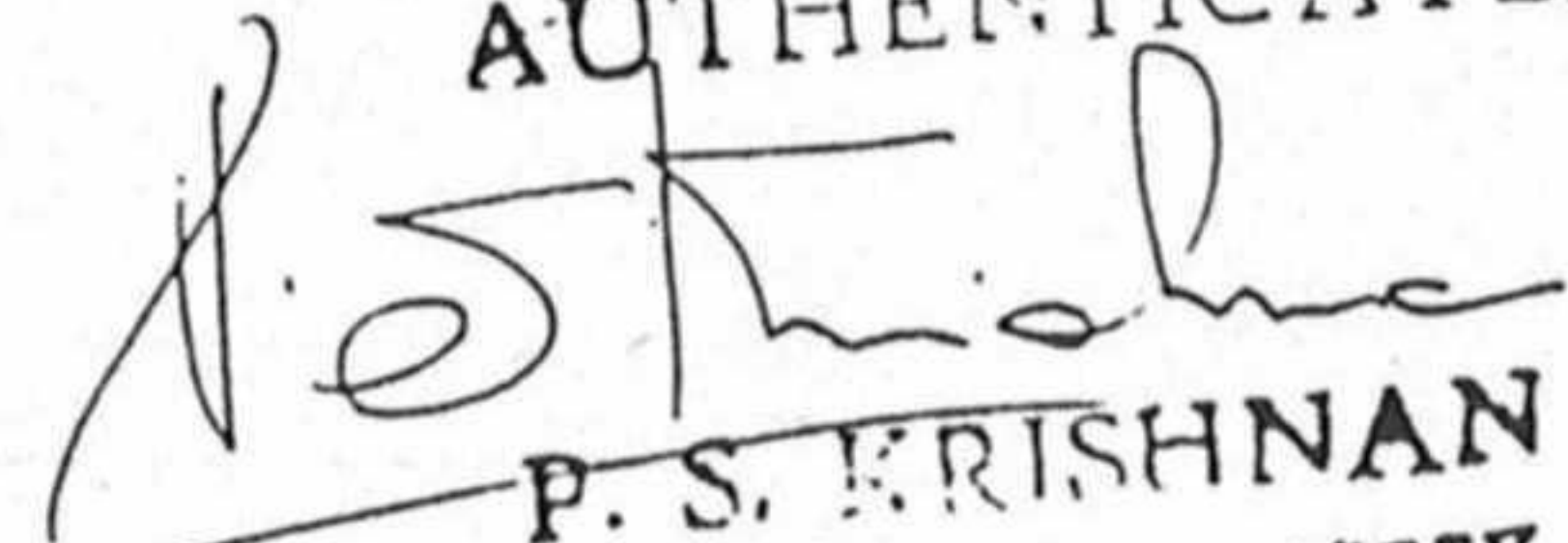
Government in 1960 after the High Court of Karnataka quashed the the above mentioned GO of 1959. After the Nagan Gowda Committee, the State Government had set up three Backward Classes Commissions, i.e., the First Backward Classes (Havanur) Commission, the Second Backward Classes (Venkataswamy) Commission and the Third Backward Classes (Chinnappa Reddy) Commission. None of these Commissions included "Kamma" caste/community in the lists of Backward Classes recommended by them respectively. Therefore, the inclusion of Kamma as a synonym of Vokkaliga in the State List that existed at the time of the preparation of the first-phase Central List as well as in the latest State List, which was prepared by the State Government after the Report of the Chinnappa Reddy Commission, is not based on the Advice of any Backward Classes Commission/Committee.

6. The NCBC's Questionnaire filled up by Shri Diwakar Babu give the occupation on which the members of "Kamma" caste/community mainly depend for their livelihood as "Agricultural labour/Agriculture". The Questionnaire also inter alia states that 17.98% of the members of the community hold more than 20 acres of land. During the Public Hearing, the representative of the community said that though originally they are immigrants from Andhra Pradesh, for the last many years they have spread all over the Karnataka State. The representative of the community also said that "Kamma" is not exactly a synonym of "Vokkaliga", but it can be said to be a "counterpart" of Vokkaliga.

7. The Report of the Venkataswamy Commission describes "Kamma" as "agriculturists who have migrated from the neighbouring State of Andhra Pradesh in search of job. They are said to have common ancestry along with Kapus or Reddies, Velamas and Telagas, and many of them are landed gentry and zamindars especially in Andhra Pradesh."

8. The Venkataswamy Commission has analysed the socio-economic cum educational status of castes/communities based on 17

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Member Secretary
National Commission
for Backward Classes

analytical State Level Tables. Out of these 17 indices, "Kamma" caste/community fared better than the State average in respect of 9 indices, which inter alia shows the percentage of agricultural labourers of the community as 12.75 percent which is less than the State average of 13.02%; percentage of families of the caste residing in pucca houses to be 27.95 as against the State average of 27.82 percent; percentage of House-less site-less families of the community to constitute only 7.65 percent as against the State average of 13.11 percent; the Landless to constitute only 27.22 percent while the State average is as high as 40.49 percent; those who have income less than Rs 5000/- to be only 63.49 percent while the State average is as high as 71.21 percent. Members of the community earning more than Rs. 20,000 to be 4.37 percent which is more than one and half times the State average of 2.77 percent.

9. The Report of the Chinnappa Reddy Commission does not discuss "Kamma" caste/community separately.

10. Edgar Thurston and Rangachari ["Castes and Tribes of Southern India", Vol. III, Asian Educational Services, New Delhi, Madras, 1993, first published 1909] quote Mr. W. Francis ["Madras Census Report, 1901"] as writing collectively concerning the Kammas, Kapus or Reddis, Velamas, and Telagas that "all four of these large castes closely resemble one another in appearance and customs, and seem to have branched off from one and the same Dravidian stock. Originally soldiers by profession, they are now mainly agriculturists and traders, and some of them in the north are zamindars (land-owners). Thurston and Rangachari also quote Rev. J. Cain as writing that the Kammas are "as a rule a fine well-built class of cultivators, very proud and exclusive, and have a great aversion to town life. Many of them never allow their wives to leave their compounds, and it is said that many never do field work on Sundays, but confine themselves on that day to the house-work." They also quote Mr. H.A. Stuart as stating that the Kammas are "most

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Member, Minority Commission

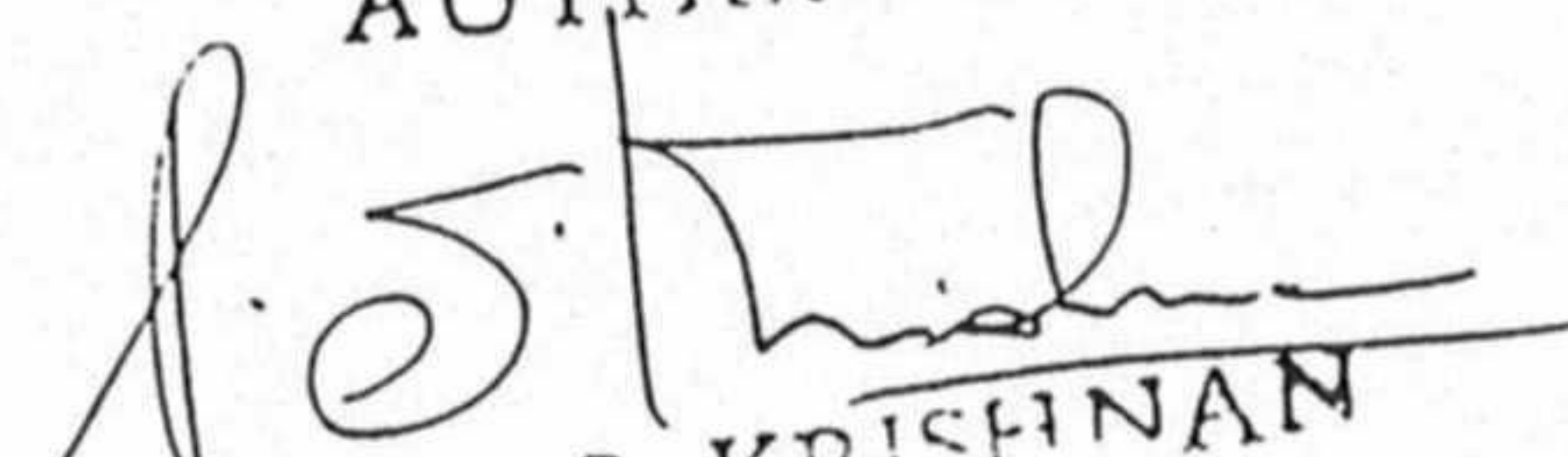
industrious and intelligent cultivators, who.... beat all rivals out of the field -- a fact which is recognised by several proverbs, such as.....if Kammas come in, other castes go out...the earth fears the Kammas...."

11. "Kamma" caste/community is not included in the State, Mandal or Central Lists of Backward Classes for Andhra Pradesh, to which they originally belong, or for any other State. In the case of Tamil Nadu, whose list is also highly inclusive like that of Karnataka, while the List include "Gavara, Gavarai(Kavari) and Vadugar(Vaduvar)" at item no. 40 certain communities have been specifically excluded and "Kamma" is one of those specifically excluded. Vadugar in Tamil means People of the North apparently referring to the region of origin of the communities in this entry, viz., the Telugu districts which lie north of the Tamil districts both of which were part of the pre-1956 Madras Presidency.

IV. Findings

12. From the above evidence it is the Finding of the Bench that "Kamma" is not a Socially Backward Class. "Kamma" is also correctly not a synonym or a sub-sect or in any other sense part of "Vokkaliga". It is clearly an Advanced Class. The inclusion of such castes/communities in the list of Backward Classes is not only counter to facts and social realities, but also deprives the classes which are genuinely Socially Backward of their due and thus seriously distorts the Constitutional and National policy on Backward Classes. The inclusion of such Advanced castes/communities in the list of Backward Classes also confers on them an un-Constitutional and un-conscionable advantage over other Advanced castes/communities who are correctly not included in the list of Backward Classes and with whom the former ought to compete on equal terms. Therefore, the

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P. S. KRISHNAN
Member
No. 1
for 1
Secretary
Commission
Backward Classes

present Request for Inclusion of "Kamma" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Karnataka should be rejected.

P. S. Krishnan
10.9.97

P. S. Krishnan

V. Advice of the Commission

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

The Request for Inclusion of "Kamma" caste in the Central List of Backward Classes for Karnataka be rejected as it is not a Socially Backward Class.

P. S. Krishnan
10.9.97

P. S. Krishnan
10/1/97

JUSTICE P. K. JAYASUNDAR
Chairperson
National Commission For
Backward Classes
Government of India
New Delhi.

Nautiyal

Co-ordinator
10.9.97

Ashayam
10.09.97

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P. S. Krishnan
P. S. KRISHNAN
Member
Commission
for Backward Classes

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

KARNATAKA BENCH

Findings

Case: Request for Inclusion of "Namadhari Nagartha" caste in the Central List of Backward Classes for Karnataka

I. Request

This case arises from the Request received in this Commission from the Nagartha Community Welfare Association, Bangalore for the Inclusion of "Namadhari Nagartha" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Karnataka.

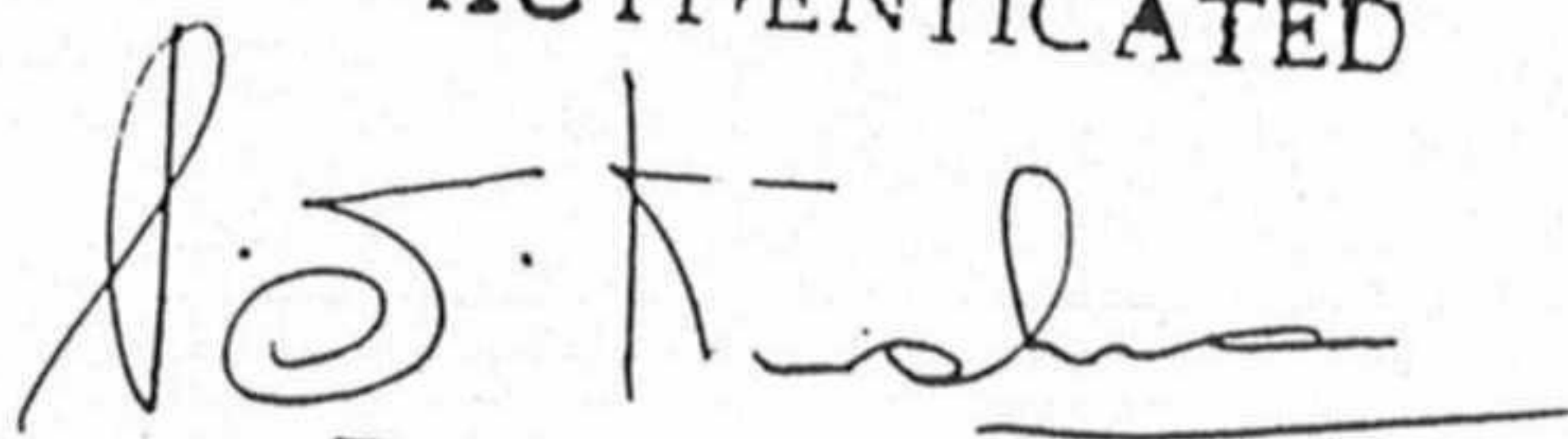
II. Public Hearing

2. The two-Member Karnataka Bench of the Commission consisting of Hon'ble Justice Shri P.K.Shyamsundar, Chairperson, NCBC and Shri P.S.Krishnan, Hon'ble Member-Secretary, NCBC held a Public Hearing at Bangalore on 22.7.1997 to examine this Request. At the Public Hearing the State Government was represented by Shri K. Narayan, Director, Backward Classes and Minorities Deptt., Shri Krishna Gowda, Joint-Director and other officers of the Backward Classes and Minorities Deptt. The community was represented by Shri G. Shamanna and Shri Venkata Rattina.

III. Facts

3. The Karnataka State List of Backward Classes is divided into a number of groups which underwent modifications from time to time. In the list that existed at the time of the preparation

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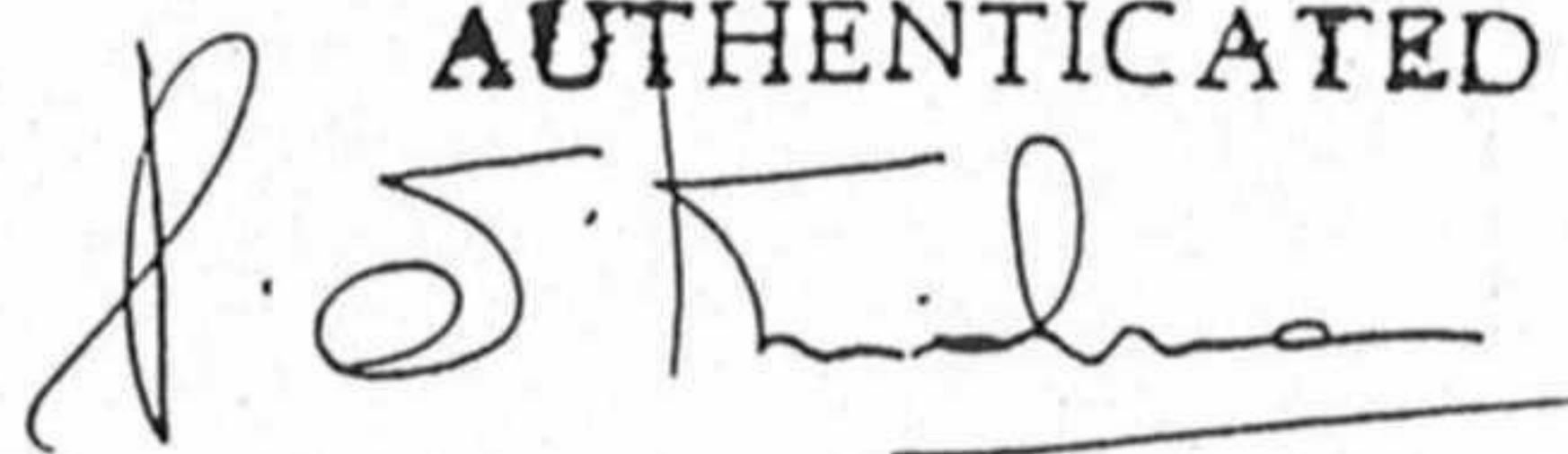
P. S. KR SHIVAN
Member Secretary
National Commission
for Backward Classes

of the first-phase Central List of Backward Classes on the principle of commonality, there were 5 groups, viz., Group-A, Group-B, Group-C, Group D and Group E. In the latest State List which was issued with GO No. SWD 150 BCA 94 dated 17.9.1994 there are again 5 groups, renamed as Categories, viz., Category I, Category II(A), Category II(B), Category III(A) and Category III(B). Neither "Nagartha" caste/community as a whole nor "Namadhari Nagartha" is included in the State List that existed at the time of the preparation of the first-phase Central List in 1993 on the basis of the principle of commonality or in the latest State List. The Mandal Commission's List of Backward Classes for Karnataka also did not contain either "Nagartha" or "Namadhari Nagartha". Therefore, they have also not been included in the first-phase Central List of Backward Classes for Karnataka prepared in 1993 on the basis of the principle of commonality.

4. "Nagartha" was included in the State Government's List of Backward Classes issued by its GO No. GAD 32 ORR 59 dated 19.7.1959. About this GO, there is a reference in the Order of the High Court of Karnataka dated 9.4.79 in Writ Petition numbers 4371, 5925, 6741, 7772 and 11603/77, pronounced in Somasekharappa and Others Vs. State of Karnataka and the Karnataka Public Service Commission, which inter alia reads as follows:- "By the said Order, except Brahmins, Banias and Kayasthas all other castes of Hindu religion as existing in the State were classified as Backward Classes." Since Banias and Kayasthas are not castes of Karnataka, this Order includes virtually all castes except Brahmins. The List of 1959 was quashed by the High Court of Karnataka in Ramakrishna Singh Rama Singh v. The State of Mysore (A.I.R. 1960 Mysore 338) on the ground that it was not in conformity with the Constitution of India.

5. "Nagartha" or "Namadhari Nagartha" was not included in the list of Backward Classes recommended by the Mysore Backward

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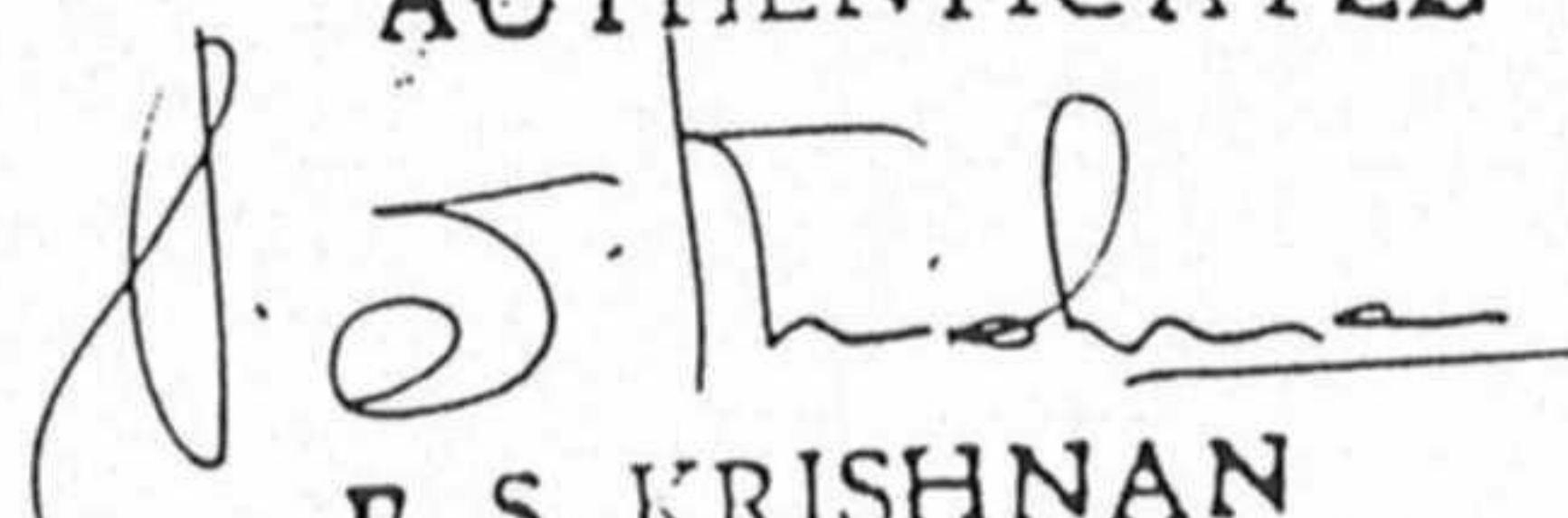
P. S. KRISHNAN
Member Secretary
National Commission
for Backward Classes

Classes (Nagan Gowda) Committee which was set up by the State Government in 1960 after the High Court quashed the above mentioned GO dated 19.7.1959. After the Nagan Gowda Committee, the State Government had set up three Backward Classes Commissions, i.e., First Backward Classes(Havanur) Commission, the Second Backward Classes (Venkataswamy) Commission and the Third Backward Classes(Chinnappa Reddy) Commission. None of these Commissions included "Nagartha" or "Namadhari Nagartha" in the list of Backward Classes respectively recommended by them and therefore the community was not included in the various State Lists of Backward Classes issued by the State Government under Article 16(4) from time to time after 1959.

6. The NCBC's Questionnaire filled up by the Nagartha Community Welfare Association states that the community is generally not regarded as Socially Backward. The questionnaire gives "Agriculture/petty trade" as the occupation on which the members of the community mainly depend for their livelihood. It further states that 95% of the community cultivate their own land and also that in 1991, 90% percent of the members of the community were literate. During the Public Hearing, the representatives the community reiterated that the community is not regarded as Socially Backward by the general society. They also said that their community in Karnataka is a miniscule one mainly concentrated in Kolar and Bangalore Urban and Rural districts.

7. The Report of the Venkataswamy Commission describes the caste as follows:- "Nagartha are the traditional traders and who were supposed to have dwelt in a 'Nagara' or Town. The Vaishnava group of them are "Namadhari Nagartha" and the Lingayat group are called "Lingadhari Nagartha." According to Venkataswamy Commission's analysis of the socio-economic cum educational status of castes/community based on 17 Analytical State Level Tables, the "Nagartha" community fared better than the State average in respect of 11 out of 17 indices.

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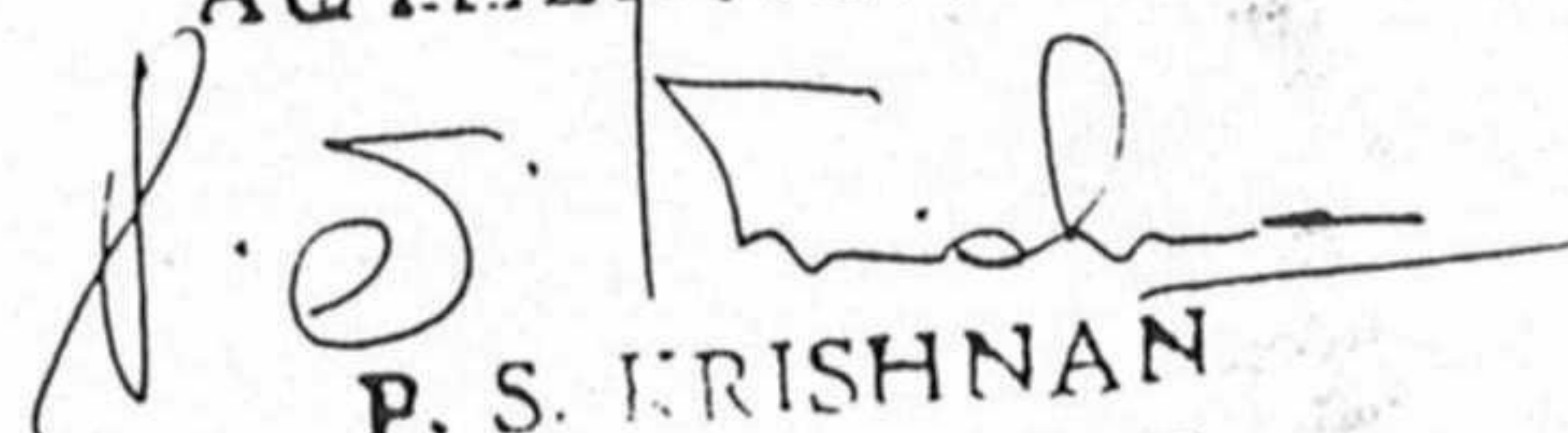


P. S. KRISHNAN
Member Secretary
National Commission
for Backward Classes

8. The Report of the Chinnappa Reddy Commission considers "Nagartha" as principally a trading community. According to its analysis of educational status of different castes/communities, the performance of "Nagartha" community with regard to the percentage of students and the percentage of SSLC-pass is approximately on par with the State average. The significance of this performance should be seen in the light of the fact that "Nagartha" community has never had reservation in educational institutions.

9. H.V. Nanjundayya ["The Ethnographical Survey of Mysore, XXX, Nagartas, Printed at the Government Press, Bangalore, 1913] describes the community as follows:- "Nagarta ...is the usual name and the term Ayodhyanagaradavaru.. is less frequently used. They style themselves Vysyas and the claim is generally accepted. The honorific suffix added to their personal names is Setty.....Nagartas do not admit members of other castes into theirs. They are strict vegetarians. Namadhari Nagartas eat only in the houses of Brahmans and Lingadhari Nagartas in the houses of Jangams and Aradya Lingayats only.... Nagartas are merchants by profession and have mostly adhered to this calling, though some have taken to agriculture. They are bankers, contractors and grain merchants...". A similar description of the community is also given by L.K.A.Iyer ["The Mysore Tribes and Castes", Vol. 4, Mittal Publications, Delhi, 1988]. Edgar Thurston and Rangachari ["Castes and Tribes of Southern India", Vol. V, Asian Educational Services, New Delhi, Madras, 1993, first published 1909] write that "Nagartha... is returned, in the Madras Census Report, 1901, as a sub-caste of Chetti... Their name (nagaram, a city) refers to their original home. They wear the sacred thread, and worship both Vishnu and Siva. They take neither flesh nor alcohol. As they maintain that they are true Vaisyas, they closely imitate the Brahmanical ceremonies of marriage and death...."

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

IV. Findings

10. From the above evidence it is the Finding of the Bench that "Namadhari Nagartha" is neither Socially nor Educationally Backward, both on their own admission and their own data as well as other data, but is an Advanced Class. The inclusion of such castes/communities in the list of Backward Classes is not only counter to the facts and social realities, but also deprives the classes which are genuinely Socially Backward of their due and thus seriously distorts the Constitutional and National policy on Backward Classes. The inclusion of such Advanced castes/communities in the list of Backward Classes also confers on them an un-Constitutional and un-conscionable advantage over other Advanced castes/communities who are, correctly, not included in the list of Backward Classes and with whom the former ought to compete on equal terms. Therefore, the Request for Inclusion of "Namadhari Nagartha" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Karnataka should be rejected.

V. Advice of the Commission

11. The Commission considered and agreed in full with the above Findings of the Karnataka Bench and decided to tender the following Advice to the Central Government under Section 9(1) of

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F. S. FISHMAN

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Ne... .. Division

for the ... 12-503

the NCBC Act, 1993:-

The Request for Inclusion of "Namadhari Nagartha" caste in the Central List of Backward Classes for Karnataka be rejected as it is not a Socially Backward Class.

P. S. Krishna
10.9.97

P. K. Shyamsundar
10/9/97

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

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10.09.97

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P. S. Krishnan
Member
National Commission
for Backward Classes

IN CASE No. 59/Karnataka/97

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

KARNATAKA BENCH

Findings

Case: Request for Inclusion of "Bunt alias Nadava" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Karnataka

I. Request

This case arises from the Request received in this Commission from the the Bunts' alias Nadavara Sangha, S.R.S. Home, Mangalore for the Inclusion of "Bunt alias Nadava" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Karnataka.

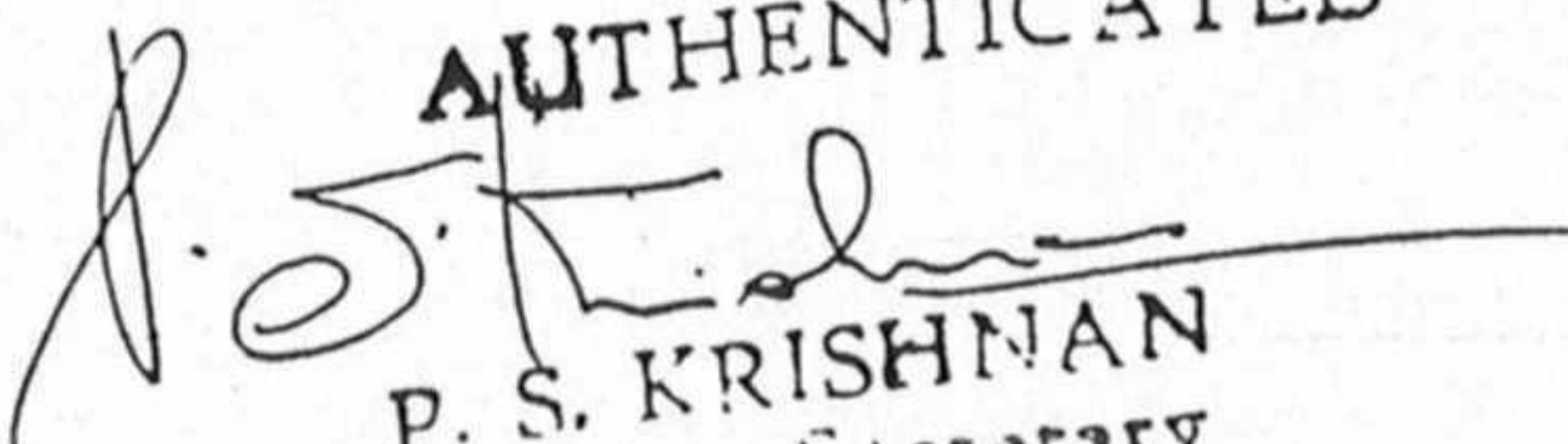
II. Public Hearing

2. The two-Member Karnataka Bench of the Commission consisting of Hon'ble Justice Shri P.K.Shyamsundar, Chairperson, NCBC and Shri P.S.Krishnan, Hon'ble Member-Secretary, NCBC held a Public Hearing at Bangalore on 22.7.1997 to examine this Request. At the Public Hearing the State Government was represented by Shri K. Narayan, Director, Backward Classes and Minorities Deptt., Shri Krishna Gowda, Joint-Director and other officers of the Backward Classes and Minorities Deptt. No representative of the community attended the Public Hearing inspite of intimation to the party who has made the Request and also inspite of publicity in the media in response to which large numbers of persons from different communities turned up before the Bench.

III. Facts

3. The Karnataka State List of Backward Classes is divided into a number of groups which underwent modifications from time to

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Member-Secretary
National Commission
for Backward Classes

me. In the list that existed at the time of the preparation of the first-phase Central List of Backward Classes on the principle of commonality, there were 5 groups, viz., Group-A, Group-B, Group-C, Group D and Group E. In the latest State List which was issued with GO No. SWD 150 BCA 94 dated 17.9.1994 there are again 5 groups, renamed as Categories, viz., Category I, Category II(A), Category II(B), Category III(A) and Category III(B). "Bunt" caste/community is included in the State List that existed at the time of the preparation of the first-phase Central List as well as in the latest State List, as follows:-

(i) Latest State List

"Category III(B)"

"4. (a) Bunt/Bant

(b) Parivara Bant"

(iii) The State List that existed at the time of the preparation of the first phase Central List (i.e., the State List issued with GO No.SWL.66.BCA.86 dated 13.10.86)

"Group D"

"15. (a) Bunt/Bant

(b) Parivara Bant"

4. "Bant" caste/community is also found included in the Mandal Commission's List of Backward Classes for Karnataka, as follows:-

"25. Bant (excluding Belgaum, Bijapur, Dharwar and North Kanara District)"

"Bunt" is not found included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Karnataka.

"Nadava" is not included in any of the above lists.

5. "Bunt" and "Nadvara" were included as synonyms of "Vokkaliga" in the State Government's List of Backward Classes

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issued by its GO No. GAD 32 ORR 59 dated 19.7.1959. About this GO, there is a reference in the Order of the High Court of Karnataka dated 9.4.79 in Writ Petition numbers 4371, 5925, 6741, 7772 and 11603/77, pronounced in Somasekharappa and Others vs. State of Karnataka and the Karnataka Public Service Commission, which inter alia reads as follows:- "By the said Order, except Brahmins, Banias and Kayasthas all other castes of Hindu religion as existing in the State were classified as Backward Classes." Since Banias and Kayasthas are not castes of Karnataka, this Order includes virtually all castes except Brahmins. The List of 1959 was quashed by the High Court of Karnataka in Ramakrishna Singh Rama Singh V. the State of Mysore (A.I.R. 1960 Mysore 338) on the ground that it was not in conformity with the Constitution of India.

6. "Bunt" caste/community was not included in the list of Backward Classes recommended by the Mysore Backward Classes (Nagan Gowda) Committee which was set up by the State Government in 1960 after the High Court quashed the above mentioned GO dated 19.7.1959. After the Nagan Gowda Committee, the State Government had set up three Backward Classes Commissions, i.e., First Backward Classes (Havanur) Commission, the Second Backward Classes (Venkataswamy) Commission and the Third Backward Classes (Chinnappa Reddy) Commission. None of these Commissions included "Bunt" in the list of Backward Classes respectively recommended by them and therefore the community was not included in the various State Lists of Backward Classes issued by the State Government from time to time after 1959 until after the Venkataswamy Commission's Report when the State Government included this caste/community in the State List of Backward Classes issued with GO No. SWL.66.BCA.86 dated 13.10.86 (i.e., the List of Backward Classes that existed at the time of the preparation of the first-phase Central List). Therefore, the inclusion of this caste/community in the State List is not based on any Advice of any of the State Backward Classes

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

Commissions/Committee.

7. The Report of the Venkataswamy Commission describes "Bunt" as follows:- "Bunts are the landed gentry in South Kanara District. The name Bunt, also pronounced as BANT, means in Thulu, a powerful man or a soldier. It seems to be originally a military class corresponding to the Nayars of Malabar. Parivar Bunt are a subsidiary group of Bunts and Nadavas or Nador are one and the same as Bunts. They take the titles like Shetty, Hegde, Nayak, Bangera, Rai, Ballal and Alva". Chinnappa Reddy Commission's Report mentions "Bunt" along with "Vysya" as having "the reputation of being very prosperous communities". According to it the "the Bunt community is engaged in both agriculture and trade."

8. Venkataswamy Commission has analysed the socio-economic cum educational status of castes/communities based on 17 Analytical State Level Tables. Out of these 17 indices, "Bunt" caste/community fared better than the State average in respect of 10 indices, which inter alia show the above State average performance of "Bunt" caste/community in respect of literacy rate (the percentage of illiterates in the community being only 24.62, nearly half of the State average of 40.97), high percentage of families residing in pucca houses (33.29 for the community, a quarter more than the State average of 27.82), fair percentage of members having more than Rs. 20,000 annual income (2.78 for the community as against the State average of 2.77), low percentage of landless families (being only 35.59 for the community as against 40.49 State average), low percentage of houseless site-less (10.33, a quarter less than the State average of 13.11), and low percentage of agricultural labour (9.60 as against the State average of 13.02) etc. The Chinnappa Reddy Commission's analysis^{of} educational data shows that "Bunt" has fared better than the State average in the percentage of students appeared for SSLC (0.8812 for the community as against 0.77 State average) and the percentage of SSLC-passed students (0.5419 for the community as against 0.39 State average). The Chinnappa Reddy Commission Report also points out that the

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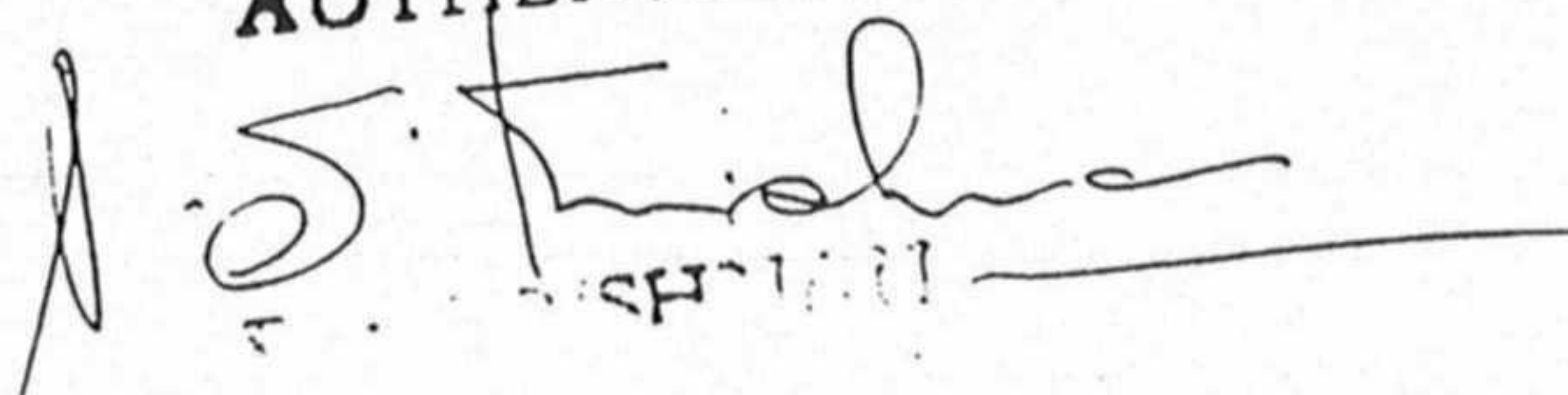
representation of "Bunt" community in posts in Group A under the Government of Karnataka is 1.0185 percent which is considerably higher than their population percentage of 0.83, though they had the benefit of reservation under Article 16(4) only after 1986. Though the percentage of their representation in Group A and Group B in Public Sector institutions is slightly less than the percentage of their population, the Chinnappa Reddy Commission Report remarks that "that is not of any great significance having regard to their otherwise good performance." The Report also gives a definite Findings that the social status of "Bunt" is high and it "cannot be classified as a Socially and Educationally Backward Class for any purpose."

9. Edgar Thurston and Rangachari ["Castes and Tribes of Southern India", Vol. I, Asian Educational Services, New Delhi, Madras, 1993, first published 1909; quote Mr. W. Francis ["Madras Census Report, 1901"] as follows:- "The Bunts are now the chief land-owning and cultivating class in South Canara, and are, with the exception of the Billavas or toddy-drawers, the most numerous caste in the district." They also quote Mr. H.A. Stuart's description of Bants in the Manual of South Canara:- "At the present day, the Bants of Canara are largely the independent and influential landed gentry, some would say, perhaps, the substantial yeomanry. They still retain their manly independence of character, their strong and well developed physique, and they still carry their heads with the same haughty toss as their forefathers did in the stirring fighting days when, as an old proverb had it, 'The slain rested in the yard of the slayer,' and when every warrior constantly carried his sword and shield. Both men and women of the Bant community are among the comeliest of Asiatic races, the men having high foreheads and well-turned aquiline noses."

IV. Findings

10. The absence of any representative of the community inspite of intimation to the party and publicity in the media is itself, in the opinion of the Bench, an admission on the part of the

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10.9.97

11. The Commission considered and agreed in full with the above Findings of the Karnataka Bench and decided to tender the

271

The Request for Inclusion of "Bunt alias Nadava" caste in the Central List of Backward Classes for Karnataka be rejected as it is not a Socially Backward Class.

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