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भारत सरकार
नई दिल्ली-110 066
MEMBER-SECRETARY
NATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR BACKWARD CLASSES
NEW DELHI-110 066

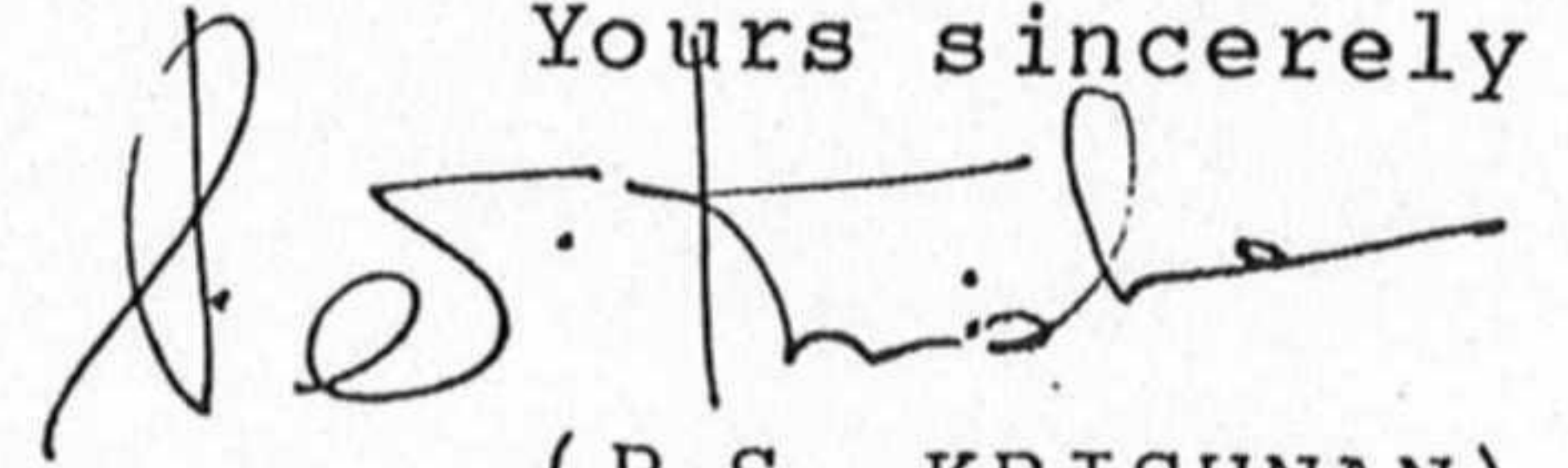
NCBC Advice No. Gujarat 36/99

28. 07. 1999

Dear Smt. Das,

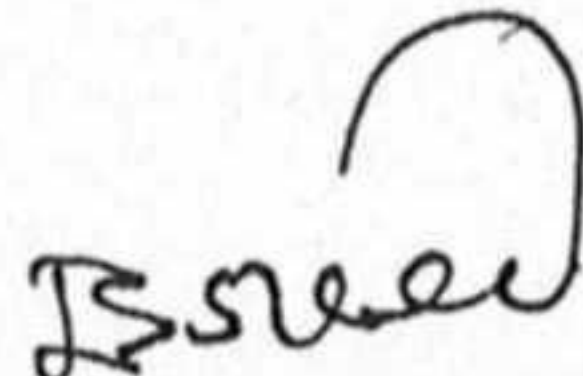
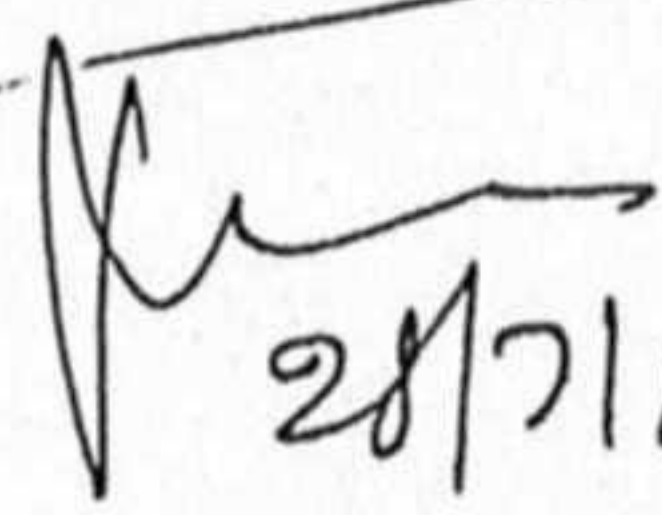
I am sending herewith the Advice of the National Commission for Backward Classes under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act for the Rejection of the Request for Inclusion of "Gugali Brahman" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Gujarat, duly authenticated, for necessary action by the Central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

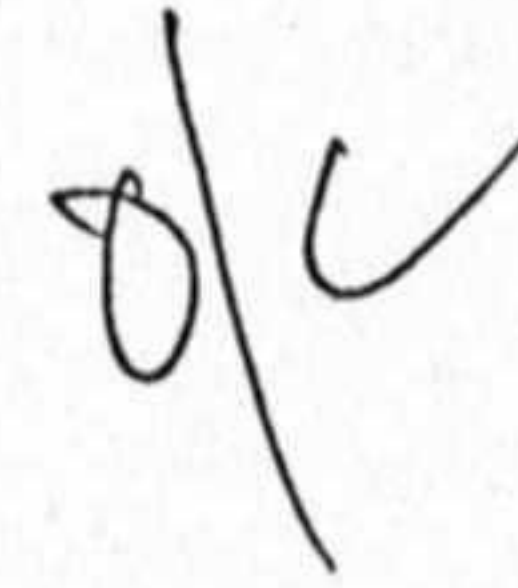
Yours sincerely


(P.S. KRISHNAN)

Encl: As stated.

Smt. Asha Das
Secretary to Govt. of India
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Shastri Bhavan
NEW DELHI



28/7/99



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NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

GUJARAT BENCH

FINDINGS

Case : Requests for inclusion of "Gugali Brahman" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Gujarat.

Per Shri Justice P.K. Shyamsundar, Chairperson

I. Request

1. This case arises out of the Request received from Shri J.P. Thaker, Executive Member of Akhil Bharatiya Gugali Brahman 505 Mahasangh, Dwarka for inclusion of "Gugali Brahman" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Gujarat.

II. Public Hearing

2. The three-Member Gujarat Bench of the Commission consisting of Hon'ble Chairperson, Justice P.K. Shyamsundar and Hon'ble Members, S/Shri U.P. Singh and Sahu Akshaya Bhai held a Public Hearing at Ahmedabad on 16.7.99 to examine this Request for inclusion in the Central List of Backward Classes for Gujarat. At the Public Hearing, the State Govt. was represented by Shri P.M. Patel, Deputy Secretary and Shri A.M. Bhatt, District Welfare Officer from Social Justice & Empowerment Department and Shri J.M. I uni, Director and Shri R.N. Patel, Joint Director from Developing Castes Welfare Department, Gandhinagar. Nobody appeared before the Bench to represent the caste/community.

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Member Secretary
National Commission
for Backward Classes

III. Facts

3. The caste/community is not included either in the Mandal List or the State List.
4. The Akhil Bharatiya Gugali Brahman 505 Mahasangh submitted the Request in Gujarati script. The State Government was requested to transcribe the Request either in Hindi or English and therefore, they submitted the English translation of the Request to the Bench at the Public Hearing. The Request mainly put thrust on the economic backwardness of the caste and contains that the population of Gugali Brahmans in India is estimated to be 75000 of which 70% is in Dwarka and the remaining population is at different places. It further mentions that the caste is known as Gugali Brahman, 70% of which lives in famous place of pilgrimage of Dwarka and because of non-availability of any other alternative employment, most of Gugali Brahmans carry on the occupation of earning their livelihood by performing religious rites for their yajamanas, which earn them very little and hence they are economically backward. The reasons cited by the Mahasangh also include negligible rainfall and saline, barren and uncultivable land of the area and mostly the religious fervour amongst the people is gradually decreasing resulting in economic hardships to the members of the caste. It also mentions that due to economic backwardness, the level of education of Gugali Brahmans is very low and therefore, the level of unemployment is very high. It is nowhere mentioned that their social status has suffered a set back because of economic backwardness and they have therefore become socially backward.
5. At the Public Hearing, the representatives of the State Government also substantiated the fact that the community is priestly class and mainly depend for their livelihood on religious rites..
6. R.E. Enthoven in his book "The Tribes And Castes of Bombay" (Published by Asian Educational Services, New Delhi, Madras, 1990, Reprint, First Published 1922, Vol. I, PP. 231) describes Gugalis under the head 'Brahman' as "Guglis, numbering 1,025 (1901), including 529 males and 496 females, are found chiefly in Dwarka. They

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are said to take their name from Gokula sacred to Krishna near Mathura. According to another account they are named after gugal or incense, by offering which they succeeded in scaring away a demon who prevented them from settling at Dwarka. Guglis are priests in the temples of Krishna at Bet Dwarka and Dakor. Many of them are servants to the Vallabhacharya Maharajas."

II. Findings

7. From the foregoing material, the Bench finds that the "Gugali Brahman" is a priestly caste. Though they may be economically backward, but it is well known that in terms of social status generally Brahmans occupy the highest position and constitute an important point of reference in society and related socio-economic matters. The Brahman stood at the head of the Hindu caste hierarchy. The Bench finds that the community is certainly not socially backward and therefore does not merit inclusion in the Central List of Backward Classes. As stated earlier the community members does not describe themselves to be socially backward, a circumstance that deters their claim for enlistment as backward class. **The Bench therefore holds that the Request for inclusion of "Gugali Brahman" caste in the Central List of Backward Classes for Gujarat should be rejected.**

P. K. Shyamsundar

(JUSTICE P.K. SHYAMSUNDAR)

27/7/99

Akshaya Bhai

(SAHU AKSHAYA BHAI)

27-07-99

U. P. Singh

(U. P. SINGH)

27/7/99

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 Member Secretary
 National Commission
 for Backward Classes

V. Advice of the Commission

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

The Request for inclusion of "Gugali Brahman" caste in the Central List of Backward Classes for Gujarat be rejected.

P. L. Hegde
27.7.99

Ashokan
27.07.99

Madan Singh
27.7.99

J. M.
28.7.99

P. S. Thakur
28.7.99

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