



पी.एस. कृष्णन्  
P S. KRISHNAN  
TEL.: 688 3190

सदस्य-सचिव  
राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग  
भारत सरकार  
नई दिल्ली-110 066  
MEMBER-SECRETARY  
NATIONAL COMMISSION  
FOR BACKWARD CLASSES  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI-110 066

DO Case NO. AP 25/96

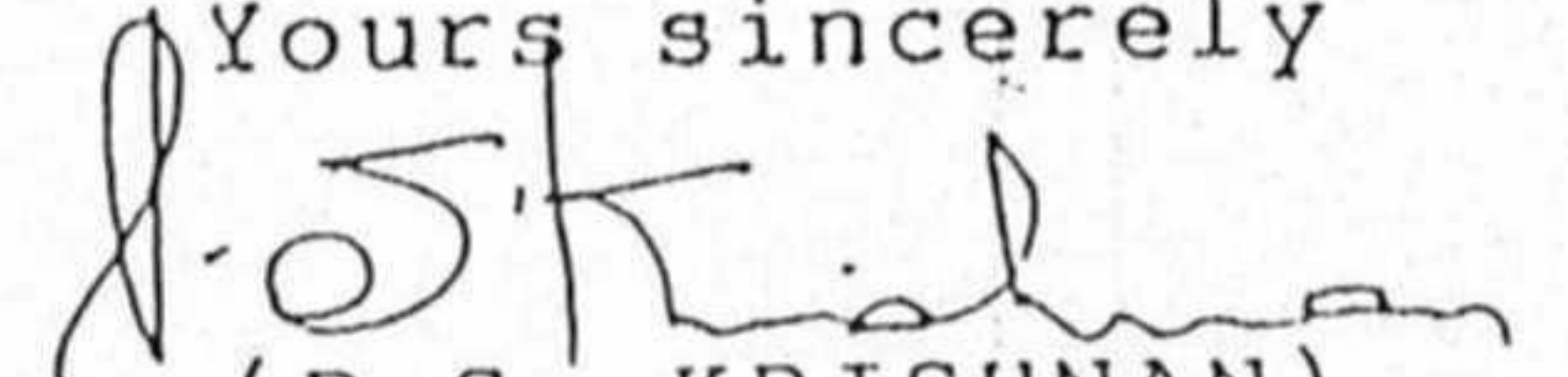
16. 2. 1996

Dear Shri Saxena,

I am sending herewith the Advice of the National Commission for Backward Classes under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act 1993 regarding inclusion of "Neeli(Nelli)" in the place of "Nelli" at S.No. 82 of the Central List of Backward Classes for Andhra Pradesh for necessary action under Section 9(2) of the Act by the Central Government.

With Best wishes,

Yours sincerely

  
(P.S. KRISHNAN)

Shri K.B. Saxena  
Secretary  
Ministry of Welfare  
Shastri Bhavan  
NEW DELHI

Encl: As stated

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES  
Andhra Pradesh Bench

Findings

Case: Request for Inclusion of "Neeli" caste/community by correction of "Nelli" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Andhra Pradesh

I. Request

Neeli Kula Sangham, Andhra Pradesh has its letter dated 8.9.94 requested the Commission for inclusion of "Neeli" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Andhra Pradesh. Its letter stated that this caste is included in the list of Backward Classes since 1950 and was also identified by the Anantharaman Commission and by the Mandal Commission as a Backward Class. The Sangham has enclosed a copy of the list of Backward Classes approved by the Government of Hyderabad by a G.O. dated 11th June 1953.

II. Public Hearing

2. The 2-Member Bench of the Commission for Andhra Pradesh consisting of Shri P.S. Krishnan and Prof. D.L. Sheth held Public Hearings at Hyderabad on 10.10.94, 13.3.95 and 7.11.95. The Sangham was represented by Shri N. Ashok Kumar and Shri N. Krishnan along with other office-bearers and members. The State Government was represented by Shri D. Siva Prasad, Secretary, Backward Classes Welfare Deptt.; Commissioner, Backward Classes Welfare, viz., Shri R.S. Goel in the first two Hearings and Shri R. Kodandarama Reddy in the last Hearing; Shri K. Chandrasekhar, Joint-Director, Backward Classes Welfare; and Smt. D.Uma Devi, Deputy Director, Backward Classes Welfare.

III. Facts

3. The relevant entries in the Andhra Pradesh State List, Mandal Commission's List for Andhra Pradesh and the Central List of Backward Classes for Andhra Pradesh etc. are as follows:-

(i) State List

"22 (Group D). Nelli"

(ii) Mandal List

"189. Nolli"

(iii) Central List

"82. Nelli"

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

(iv) Copy of the List of Backward Classes of Hyderabad enclosed with the application

"77. Neeli"

4. Anantharaman Commission Report, on the basis of which the present State List of Backward Classes was prepared, gives the following account of "Nelli":-

"44. Nelli:-

This is a very small community found only in Adilabad district. Their traditional occupation is agriculture and cloth dyeing... With the introduction of machine dyeing and machine printing, their occupation has become unremunerative. Most of them are working as agricultural labourers or coolies. The community as a whole is very poor, as most of them are dependent on daily wages which are inadequate to provide even one square meal per day.... In view of their poverty and unremunerative and unclean occupation, this community occupies a low position in social hierarchy...."

5. Edgar Thurston and Rangachari's authoritative work on the "Castes and Tribes of Southern India" does not mention any caste called "Nelli", but they have described in this work (Vol. V, P.415) the caste/community "Nili" as follows:-

"Nili (Indigo).-

An exogamous sept of Padma Sale and Togata"

6. In the first Public Hearing it became clear that the Request was not for a fresh inclusion but for correction of spelling or, in other words, to correct the present entry in the Central List of Backward Classes for Andhra Pradesh from "82. Nelli" to "82. Neeli". The Bench felt that it is necessary to find out whether there is actually in the State a community of the name "Nelli" before taking a view on the Request for correction of spelling. The Bench therefore requested the State Government to verify the position by conducting thorough enquiries and furnish information to the Bench as to whether there exists a community called "Nelli" apart from "Neeli" in the State. Since the Anantharaman Commission had mentioned that "Nelli" is a very small community found only in Adilabad district, the State Government was specifically requested to address the Collector, Adilabad District in particular in this regard. Since the Sangham also addressed the State Commission in the same matter, it was suggested by the State Government that the State Commission may consider issuing a Public Notification as part of its process of enquiry from the point of view of the State List and the data generated thereby would be useful in the context of the Central List also.

7. During the Public Hearing on 13.3.95 the State Government representatives showed the Bench a D.O. letter

Rc. No. A1/719/94 dated 9.3.1995 from the Collector, Adilabad District to the Secretary, Backward Classes Welfare Deptt., Andhra Pradesh a furnished a copy of it to the Bench which stated inter alia that there is no community called "Nelli" in Adilabad and there is a small number belonging to the "Neeli" community whose occupation is agriculture and clothe dying and who are known in Maharashtra as "Nirali" and in Karnataka as "Nilgar".

8. At the Public Hearing on 7.11.95, the State Government furnished to the Bench a copy of the Notification No. 66/APCBC/94 dated 5.6.1995 issued by the AP Commission for Backward Classes inviting representations, objections and suggestions on the case of inclusion of "Neeli" in the State List by correcting the entry "Nelli" at Sl. No. 22(Group D). Written Affidavits received in response to this Notification were shown and copies furnished to the Bench. These Affidavits are not only from the Associations of the community but also from others like the Andhra Pradesh Backward Classes Welfare Association; the Andhra Pradesh Fishermen's Association; the Weavers United Front, Andhra Pradesh; and an ex-Chairman of the APCO, a cooperative in the field of marketing of weavers' products. All these Affidavits affirmed that there is no caste called "Nelli" in any part of Andhra Pradesh and it is only a spelling mistake for "Neeli".

9. The Bench went thorough the following papers and documents produced by the Sangham in support of their Request:-

- (i) Extract of Kaka Kalelkar Commission Report on Backward Classes - Vol. II
- (ii) Extract of the Hyderabad Government Gazette dated 11th June, 1953 containing G.O.No. 10, dated 30th May, 1953
- (iii) Extract of "Census 1961 Andhra Pradesh, District Census Handbood, Mahbubnagar"
- (vi) Extract of "Census 1961, Andhra Pradesh, District Census Handbook, Medak District"
- (v) Extract of G.O. Ms. No. 1885, Health dated 21st June 1963 of Government of Andhra Pradesh.
- (vi) Extract of Rules Supplement to Part I of Andhra Pradesh Gazette No. 19-A dated 26th May, 1966
- (vii) Backward Class Caste Certificate issued by Government of Andhra Pradesh (Tehsildar Kodangal, District Mahabubnagar)
- (viii) Extract of G.O.MS.1880, Education-II, dated 29th July, 1966.

*[Signature]*

(ix) Extract of G.O. MS. NO. 1793, Education, dated 23rd September, 1970 of Government of Andhra Pradesh.

These show that there was no mention of a caste called "Nelli" prior to G.O. MS 1880, Education-II, dated 29th July, 1966 whereas "Neeli" has been mentioned in all these lists. The list of Backward Classes issued with the GO MS 1880, Education-II dated 29th July, 1966 contains the entry "Nelli" at S.No. 60.

#### IV. Findings

9. The Bench concluded that "Nelli" included for the first time in the GO of 1966 is really a typographical error, which thereafter has been mechanically continued, to this day. This typographical error has had the effect of forcing the members of the "Neeli" community to seek certificates as "Nelli", adopting the misspelt name, as otherwise they would not get Backward Class certificates. Naturally they feel unhappy about this. The request to correct "Nelli" as "Neeli" is justified.

10. But a problem was brought to the notice of the Bench by the members of the community that if "Nelli" is deleted from the list, those "Neeli" caste/community members who have already got their Caste Certificates in the name of "Nelli", on account of the mistake in the existing Lists, may be deprived of the benefits of reservation and other benefits. Therefore, to preclude such a possibility, it was the considered view of the Bench that entry at Sl. No.82 of the Central List of Backward Classes for Andhra Pradesh be amended as follows:-

"82. Neeli(Nelli)"

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

AUTHENTICATED

*[Signature]*  
P. S. KRISHNAN  
Member Secretary  
National Commission  
for Backward Classes

V. Advice of the Commission

11. The Commission considered and agreed in full with the Findings of the A.P. Bench and decided to render the following Advice to the Central Government as per section 9(1) of the NCBC Act, 1993:-

Entry no. "82. Nelli" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Andhra Pradesh be amended as follows:-

"82. Neeli (Nelli)"

*B. L. S. H. T. H.*  
CD. L. S. H. T. H.  
16/2/96

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

(DR. R. PRASANNAN)

*[Signature]*

Justice R. G. Prasad 96  
Chairman  
National Commission for  
Backward Classes  
New Delhi.

AUTHENTICATED

*[Signature]*  
P. S. KRISHNAN  
Member Secretary  
National Commission  
for Backward Classes