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राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग
भारत सरकार

ट्रिकूट-१, भीकाएजी 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

NCBC Advice No. Kerala/58/2001

27.04.2001

Dear Smt. Asha Das,

I am sending herewith the advice of the National Commission for Backward Classes, under Section 9(1) of the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993, for the rejection of the request for inclusion of "Mallava (Veera Shaiva) caste/community in the Central list of backward classes for Kerala, duly authenticated, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the Act.

Yours sincerely

(C. T. Benjamin) 27/4

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

Encl: - As stated

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES**KERALA BENCH****FINDINGS**

Case: Request for inclusion of "Mallava (Veerashaiva)" caste/community in the Central list of backward classes for Kerala.

I. REQUEST

This case arises from the request made to this Commission by Shri H.N. Jagadeesa Mallava, on behalf of the Ikkeri Mallava Samaja Sangha, Shree Mahasathi Temple, Near Sri Nithyananda Ashram, Hosdurg, PO Kanhangad-671315 for inclusion of the "Mallava(Veerashaiva)" caste/community in the Central list of backward classes for Kerala. In his letter of request, Shri Jagadeesa Mallava, Secretary of the Sangha has stated that "the Mallavas are found in small numbers in Hosdurg, Chitari village of Kasaragod District of Kerala State and in Belthangady, Althangady in the Dakshina Kannada District of Karnataka State. They speak Kannada language... These people are the descendants of the Mallava soldiers who came to Dakshina Kannada upto Hosdurg with the Keladi Ikkeri army. The Keladi Ikkeri kings were Mallavas. The Keladi rulers had their boundaries extended upto Kerala...". It is further stated in the request that after the conquest of the kingdom by Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan, the Ikkeri rulers suffered untold miseries and over the years the Mallavas became economically and educationally backward, as they would not take up any positions under Muslim rulers. The backwardness continued during and after the British rule. At present, the economic position of the community as a whole is very poor. The number of families who own enough land so as to exist on agricultural income is very few. Most of their members depend for their livelihood on petty cultivation as tenants and are in small jobs under the Government and private bodies.

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(C. T. BENJAMIN)
Member Secretary
National Commission For
Backward Classes

II. PUBLIC HEARING

2. The two-Member Kerala Bench of the Commission consisting of Shri C.T. Benjamin, Hon'ble Member-Secretary and Shri M.S.Matharoo, Hon'ble Member held a public hearing to examine this request at Thiruvananthapuram on 23rd February 2001. At the public hearing, the State Government was represented by Smt. A.R. Prabha Devi, Joint Secretary, Shri W.R. Reddy, Director, Smt. P.K. Shantha Kumari, Additional Director and other officers in the SC & ST Department. The caste/community was represented by Shri H.N. Jagadeesa Mallava and Shri H. Venkatramana. Shri P.S. Raveendran, Shri K.Sivathanu and others were present representing the Kerala Veerasaiva Sabha.

III. FACTS

3. Mallava (Veerashaiva) caste/community is not included in the first-phase Central list of backward classes for Kerala issued by the Government of India in 1993 based on the principle of commonality (i.e., inclusion in the Central list of castes/commonly found included in the respective State lists and the Mandal Commission's list for each State) since it was not included in both the Mandal Commission's list as well as the then existing State list and therefore did not satisfy the criterion of commonality. "Mallava (Veerashaiva)" is not included in the State list even now.

4. The first-phase Central list of backward classes for Kerala issued in 1993 contains the entry "Veerasaiva (Yogi&Yogeeswara)" at entry no. 64. To this entry, the Government of India vide Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment Resolution No. 12011/68/98-BCC dated 27th October 1999 added "Poopandaram/Maalapandaram and Jangam". This was in accordance with the advice tendered by the NCBC to that effect.

5. According to the present request, Mallavas are also a caste/community coming under the category of Veerasaiva. During the public hearing held on 23rd February 2001, the representatives of the caste/community stated that since the members of their community are educationally and economically backward, they should also be recognised

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Member Secretary
National Commission for Backward Classes

as a backward caste and Mallava be included in the Central list of backward classes for Kerala under 'Veerasaiva'. The representatives of the Kerala Veerasaiva Sabha who were present during the public hearing stated that they have not heard of the Mallava caste/community and that the Mallavas do not come under the category of Veerasaivas in Kerala and therefore Mallavas should not be included in the list of backward classes under the category of Veerasaiva. They however said that they do not have any objection to the inclusion of Mallava in the list of backward classes as a separate and distinct caste/community.

6. When the Bench specifically asked the representatives of the community whether the Mallava caste/community is in fact a socially backward caste/community, they admitted that their caste/community is not a socially backward caste/community.

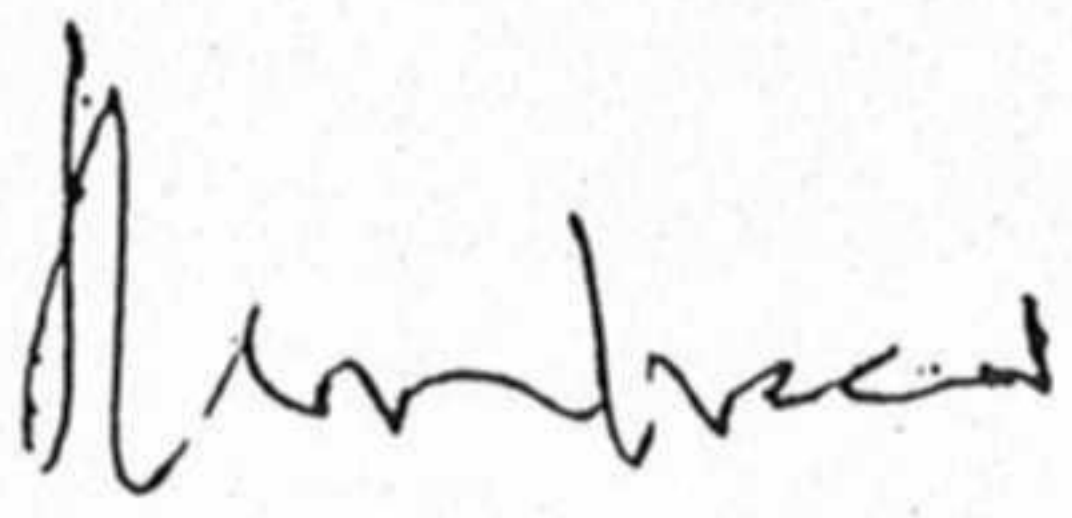
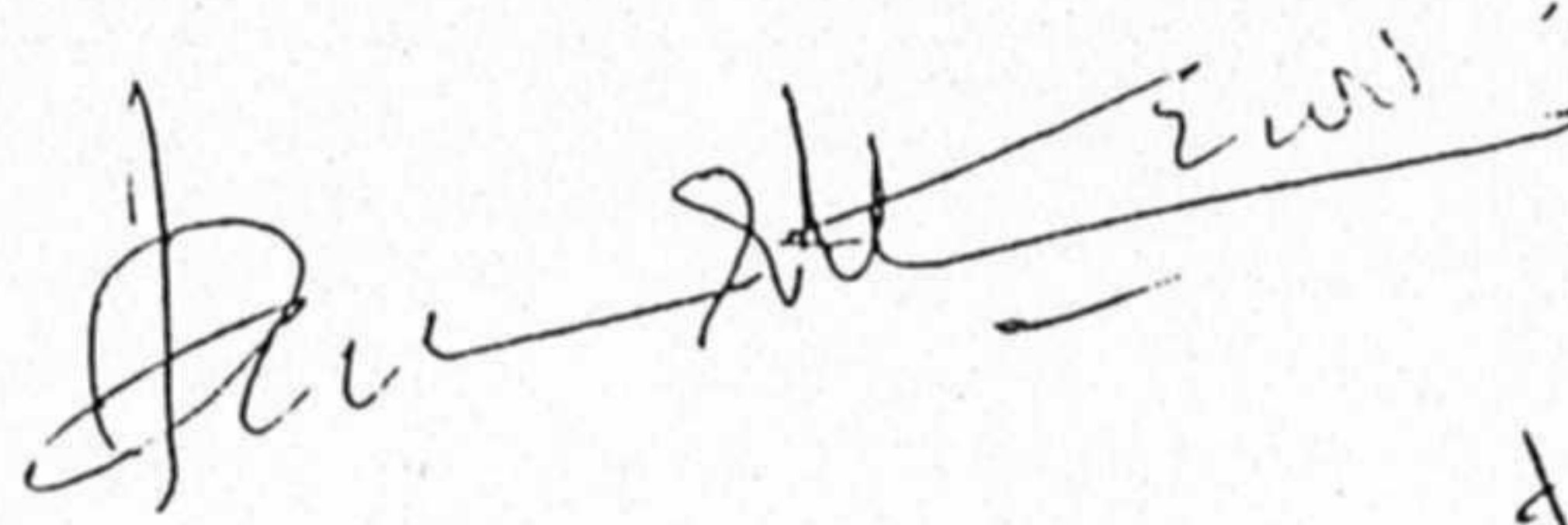
7. That the Mallava are not socially backward is also borne out from the fact that they once ruled a kingdom in their present areas of residence and also from the ethnographic account of the caste/community by L.K.A. Iyer in his work *The Mysore Tribes and Castes* ((Mittal Publications, Delhi, reprinted 1988, Vol. IV) wherein it is mentioned that "Most of the Mallavas of Mysore are land-holders, and *patels* or village headmen. They own rice and sugarcane fields and betel-nut gardens. None of them work as day labourers. Some are traders."

IV. FINDINGS

8. In view of the above facts, the Bench is of the view that as admitted by the representatives of the caste/community during the public hearing, the "Mallava" is not a

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socially backward caste/community and therefore it cannot be included in the list of backward classes. Therefore, the request for inclusion of "Mallava (Veerashaiva)" in the Central list of backward classes for Kerala should be rejected.

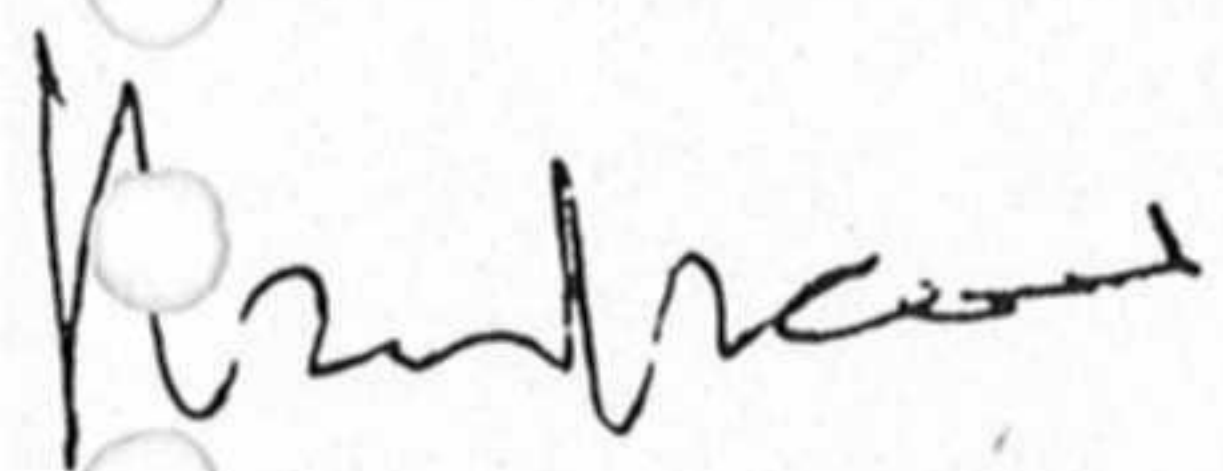
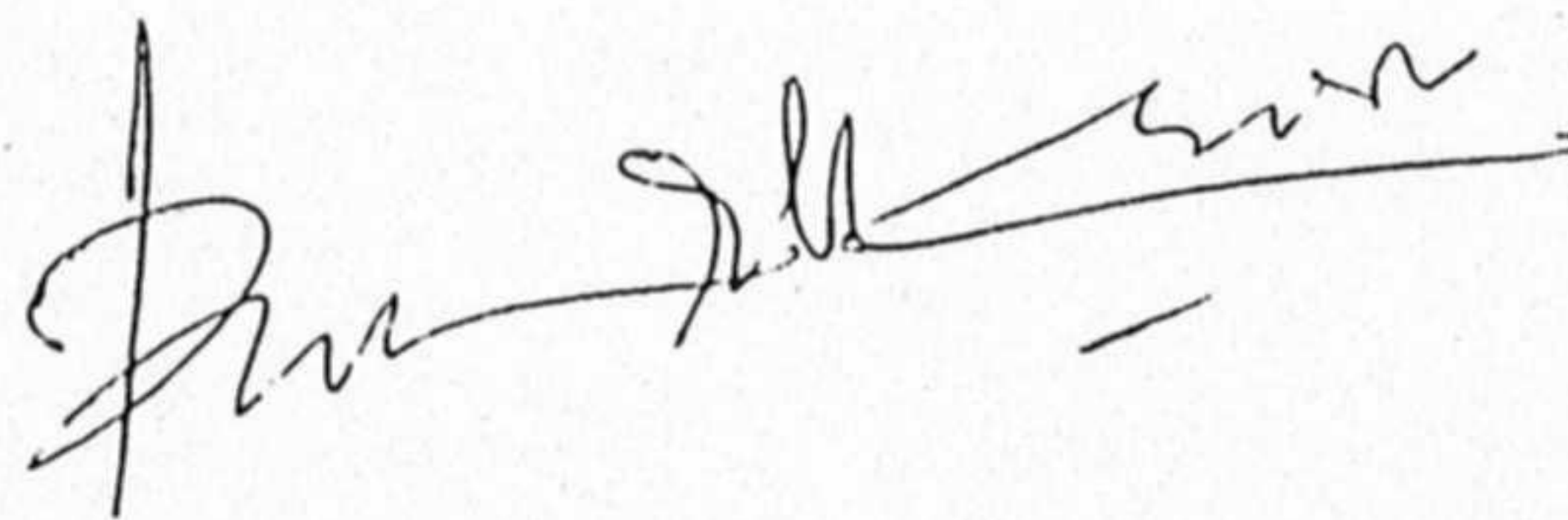
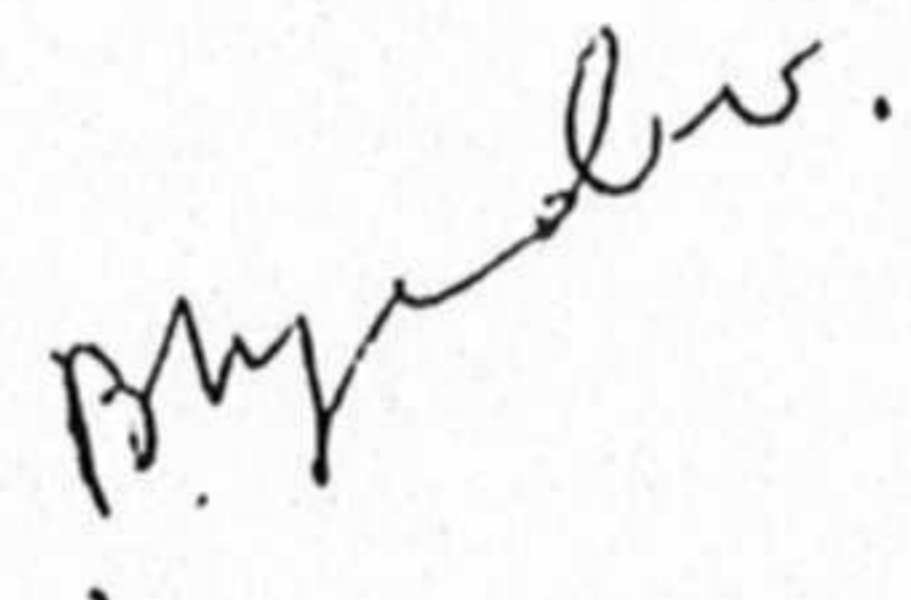
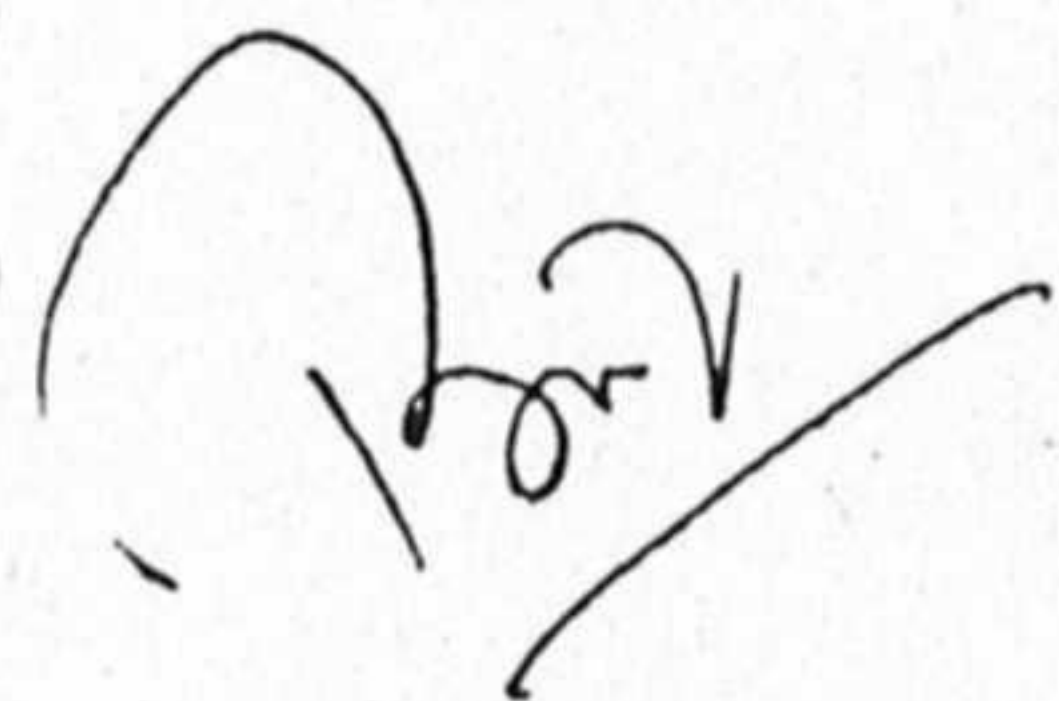



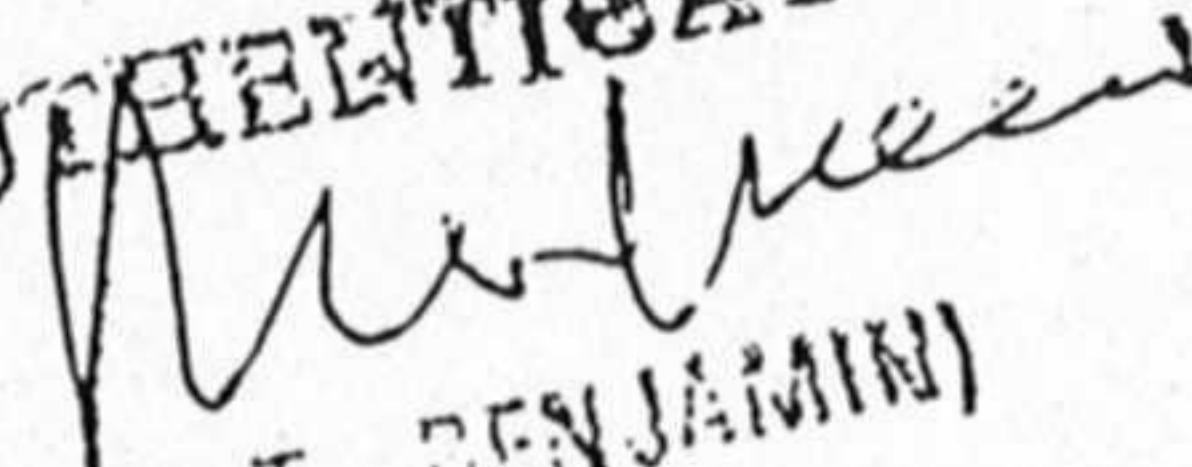
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V. ADVICE OF THE COMMISSION

9. The Commission considered and agreed in full with the above findings of the Kerala Bench and decided to tender the following advice to the Central Government under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act, 1993 for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the Act: -

The request for inclusion of Mallava (Veerashaiva) caste/community in the Central list of backward classes for Kerala be rejected, as it is not a socially backward caste/community.


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 Member Secretary
 National Commission for
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