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MEMBER-SECRETARY
NATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR BACKWARD CLASSES
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW DELHI - 110 066

DO NCBC Advice No. Tripura 4/98

20. 05. 1998

Dear Shri Manavalan,

I am sending herewith the Advices of the National Commission for Backward Classes under Section 9(1) of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) Act, 1993 for Inclusion of 'Kuri' caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Tripura, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the Act.

Best Wishes,

Yours sincerely

Encl: As stated.

(P.S. KRISHNAN)

Shri D.K. Manavalan
Secretary to Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Shastri Bhavan
NEW DELHI

2380
24/5

O/C

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

Tripura Bench

Findings

Per Shri Justice P.K. Shyamsundar, Chairperson

Case: Request for Inclusion of "Kuri" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Tripura.

I. Request

This case arises from the Request received in this Commission from the State Government of Tripura for inclusion of "Kuri" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Tripura.

II. Public Hearing

2. The two-Member Tripura Bench of the Commission consisting of Justice P.K. Shyamsundar, Hon'ble Chairperson and Shri P.S. Krishnan, Hon'ble Member-Secretary, NCBC held a Public Hearing in respect of this Request at Agartala on 06.04.98. At the Public Hearing the State Government was represented by Shri S.C. Das, Secretary SC & ST Welfare Department and other officials. Shri K.R. Das, Chairperson, Shri S. Bhowmik, Member-Secretary and Shri Matilal Sarkar, Member of Tripura State Backward Classes Commission were also present at the Public Hearing who gave valuable information. No members from the community represented at the hearing. Shri Bibakananda Bhowmik, Joint Convenor, Tripura State OBC Sangam Committee represented on behalf of the community.

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National Commission
for Backward Classes

III. Facts

3. "Kuri" is included in the State List at Entry No.25. But it is not included in the Mandal List as well as in the Central List of Backward Classes for Tripura.
4. The Questionnaire filled up by the State Government states that this caste is considered as Backward because of their low social position in the traditional caste hierarchy of Hindu Society and suffer disabilities like free access to public utilities, social discrimination, lack of education resulting in inadequate or no representation in services. Nearly 35% of the members of the caste are educated. Most of the members of this caste are engaged in the preparation of Chira and Muri (flattened rice and puffed rice) and Chanachur (a crisp snack) carried out with traditional equipment which mainly involves manual labour. Others are engaged in manual labour and petty business. The members of the caste are spread all over the Tripura State but a larger population is concentrated in West Tripura District.
5. During the Public Hearing, regrettably none of the community members came forward to represent the case at the Public Hearing except Shri. Bibakananda Bhowmik said to be the Joint Convenor of Tripura State OBC Sangam Committee represented on behalf of the community. He mentioned that the traditional occupation of Kuri community was preparing and selling of Chira and Muri (flattened rice and puffed rice) and Chanchur (crisp snacks). He went on to add the members of the community were also in sweet-meat shops and other petty business while some other work as cottage industry labourers.
6. According to Shri Bibakananda Bhowmik this Kuri community is considered as socially backward in the State of Tripura. It was mentioned that a very small number i.e 72 persons are represented in the State Government service against the community's total population of about 4500 in Tripura State. We were told that the community is spread all over Tripura including Agartala. Shri Bibabanda Bhowmik in answer to a specific question, whether this community was a kind of Bania (trading community), he

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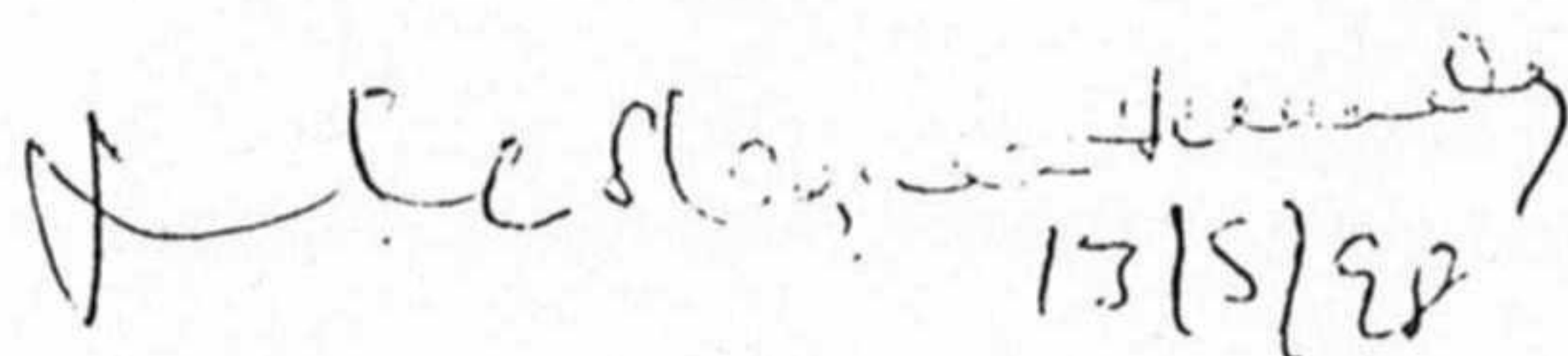
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for Backward Classes

denied the same. We notice that this community is similar to Bharbhujia community of North India which is included in the list of Backward Classes in number of States.

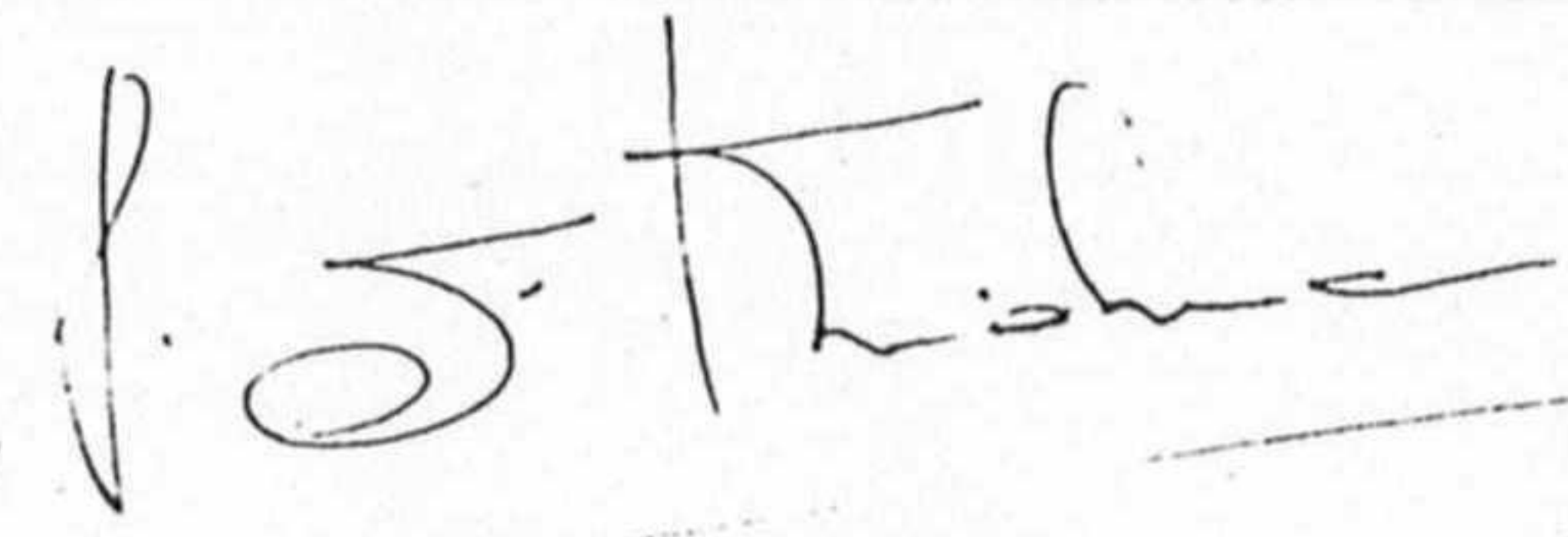
IV Findings

7. From the information gathered at the Hearing as aforesaid considering the fact that similar community in other States of North India are included in the list of Backward Classes, we think that this small community with its negligibly presence in government services, seeking a livelihood from the traditional occupation of preparing Chira and Muri should be hard put to subsist. In the circumstances it becomes clear that the community which is tied down to an occupation which hopes of no prosperity and hence there is little gainsay in denying that the community is socially backward.

8. On the educational front, we do not have much information but if at all to accept the figures furnished relating to representation in government services resulting in two digits out of their total population of 4 digits, it should be a compelling inference that this community is also educationally backward. In that view of the matter, we necessarily hold that the Kuri Caste/community is socially and educationally backward. The Bench, therefore, recommends inclusion of Kuri caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes.

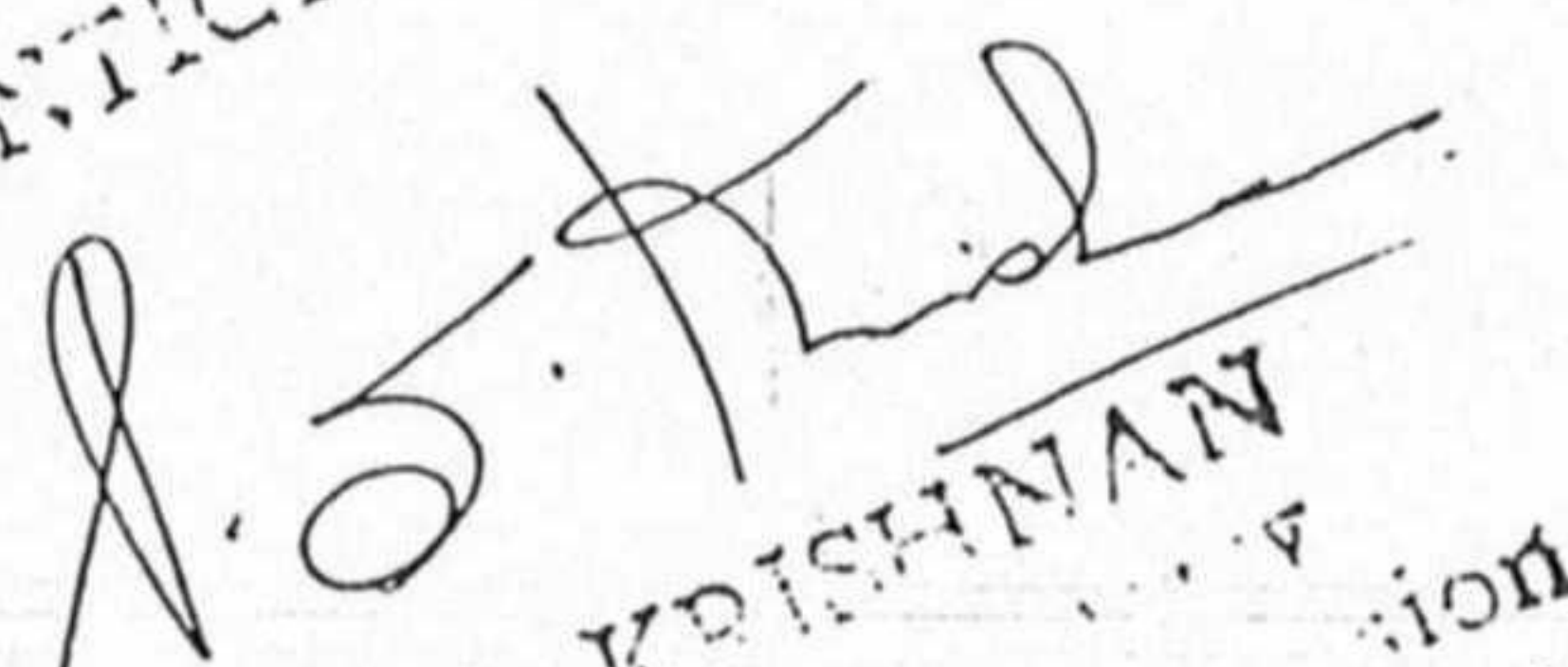

13/5/92

(Justice P.K. Shyamsundar)


13.5.98

(P.S. Krishnan)

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“Kuri” caste/community be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Tripura at **Entry No.36** so that the amended entry No. 36 reads as follows:-

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13(7) 98

13(2) 98

St. John

13.598

10.5.50

18.5-98

Kshaya
18-05-28

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