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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

NCBC/Orissa/7/96/
May 28, 1996

Dear Shri Saxena,

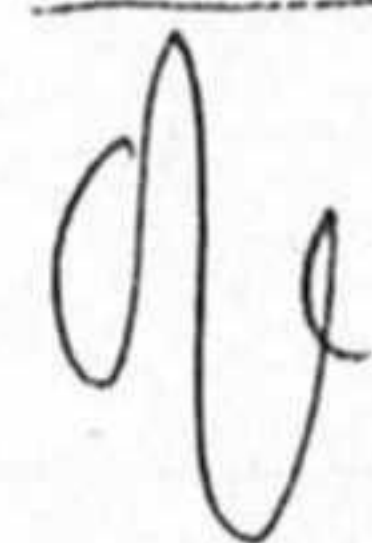
I am sending herewith the unanimous Advice of the National Commission for Backward Classes under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act, 1993 in respect of Patara/Patra community to include in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa, for necessary action under Section 9(2) of the Act by the Central Government.

Encl: As Stated

Shri K.B.Saxena
Secretary
Ministry of Welfare
Shastri Bhavan
New Delhi

Yours sincerely,


(P.S. KRISHNAN)




28/5

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

ORISSA BENCH

REQUEST; Inclusion of PATARA/PATRA caste/community in the Central OBC list for the State of ORISSA.

CASE; A request was made on 6.12.94 by Mr. Bisweshwar Bhutia, President of the Orissa Anagrasara Jati Mahasabha, Head Office Cuttack, to supply one set of Questionnaire of the NCBC to enable them to file request for inclusion of the PATARA caste/community in the Central OBC list. The request for inclusion in the form of petitions dated 10th January, 1995 and 20th February, 1995 was made by Shri Prasanta Kumar Sahoo on behalf of the PATARA community (the latter petition contains signatures of 16 other persons als) stating therein that the community stands included as an OBC in the State list of Orissa but has not been included in the Central OBC list and that this omission came to the knowledge of the community in December 1994. There is another petition dated 3rd April 1995 signed by several representatives of the community and this petition was handed over to us personally in course of hearing by the Bench at Bhubaneshwar on that day. The representatives at that time mentioned that the PATARA community is socially, educationally and economically backward and its members are engaged traditionally in the work of weaving cloth (Pat, Patluga) from silk yarn. It was also pointed out that the name of the community was mis-spelt in the Mandal list for Orissa and this appears to be merely a typographical error which caused its non-inclusion in the Central OBC list.

PUBLIC HEARING & EVIDENCE; The Bench of the NCBC for the State of Orissa consisting of Hon'ble Justice R.N. Prasad, Chairman and Prof. D.L. Sheth, Hon'ble Member held its sittings

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19. 5. 1995
P. S. Kishan
Member

for hearing on the claims of different castes/communities on 3rd and 4th April, 1995 and also on 4th January, 1996 at Bhubaneswar. The representatives of this community made some submissions before the Bench in course of the hearing at Bhubaneswar on 3rd April, 1995 but they submitted that they required some time to file certain documents particularly the Backward Classes list of Orissa issued by the State Govt. in 1950. This community was therefore further heard on the 4th January, 1996 at Bhubaneswar. Besides the representatives of this community and their associations aforesaid, the Govt. of Orissa was represented by Sh. Choudhry, Joint Secretary in the Welfare Department and Member-Secretary of the State Backward Classes Commission. The position as regards inclusion of the community in the State list for Orissa which was notified in 1994 on the basis of the Justice N.K.Das Report and in the Mandal report list for this State is as follows:

State List

Entry No.149 - PATARA

Mandal List

Entry No.179 - PATRO

The PATARA caste could not obviously be included in the first phase Central OBC list which was prepared and notified in 1993. The State list for Orissa came into existence in 1994 on the basis of Justice N.K.Das report. Likewise State list of some other States/UTs were also prepared and notified subsequent to the first phase Central OBC list and the Govt. of India applying the principle of commonality in respect of the subsequently prepared State lists issued notification as a result of which various castes/communities of Orissa and other States got included in the Central OBC list. However, PATARA community still stands omitted from Central OBC list for Orissa because the name in the Mandal report list being mentioned as PATRO was treated

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as not satisfying the principle of commonality.

Questionnaires filled up by the State as well as by the representatives of the community have been received. The Questionnaire filled up by the State Govt. supplies general information regarding population, literacy, the total number of officers of different grades in the State Cadre etc. In respect of specific information regarding the OBC communities the State has just mentioned "N.A". As such there is no specific information from the State Govt in respect of the Patara community also. But the Questionnaire filled up by the community gives adequate relevant information. One set of Questionnaire has been filled up by President/Secretary of Nikhila Utkal Patara Samiti, Cuttack. There is another set filled up by Shri Gangadhar Dandia, MLA. The data so supplied show that the community is largely concentrated in the districts of Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Cuttack, Puri, Sambalpur, Sundargarh, Keojarh. About 85% of the people of this community are carrying on the traditional occupation of weaving Pat Cloth; they also prepare coloured threads used in making of garlands and beads. Most of the remaining members of the community, that is those who are not engaged in the traditional occupation, have to earn their livelihood by working as labourers. In many families even women and children have to work to supplement the family income. They have no representation in the legislature and as regards membership of any Zilla Parishad or other types of local bodies, it was submitted that no information is available presumably because no member of the community is in any such institution.

The contention that in the Mandal report list for Orissa there is typographical errors in mentioning the name of this community get support from paragraph 25 of Justice N.K.Das Commission Report in which it is mentioned that the entry at Sl.No.179 of the Mandal List i.e. Patro is a

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surname for many castes and that the name should be correctly written as Patara.

In the course of the hearings and from the written submissions made to the Bench by some representatives of the community, it became clear that there is no specific caste or community in Orissa bearing the name PATRO as is mentioned in the Mandal Report. As it was also observed by the Justice N.K.Das Commission, the term PATRO is often used as a surname by many caste in Orissa, and, therefore, the correct identification of the community is PATRA.

In support of the contention that this community has always been regarded as socially and educationally backward copy of the notification issued by the Home Deptt. of the Govt. of Orissa, 76 Reforms dated 26th January, 1950 for providing certain facilities to people belonging to the backward classes has been filed and in this list the entry as Sl. No. 87 is 'PATRA or PATARA'. It was pointed out that in the Oriya Language the name is pronounced as ଫାଟରା and it is on this account that in English the name is spelt as PATARA or PATRA. This was also supported by the people present at the time of hearing. It is also mentioned in the Questionnaire sent by Mr. Dandia.

In the Book "CASTES AND TRIBES OF SOUTHERN INDIA" written by Edgar Thurston and K. Rangachari, in volume VI at page 176 there is the description of the PATRA caste. The following observations are relevant:

The Patras are an Oriya caste, which is divided into two sections, one of which is engaged in the manufacture of silk (pata) waist-threads, tassels, etc and the other in weaving silk cloths. The members of the two sections do not interdine. The former have exogamous septs or bamsams, the names of which are also used as titles, e.g. Sahu, Patro, and Prushti. The latter have exogamous septs, such as Tenga, Jaggali, Telaga, Mahanayako, Behara and Nayako as titles. The evidence produced clearly go to show that the Patara caste belongs to an Artisan community.

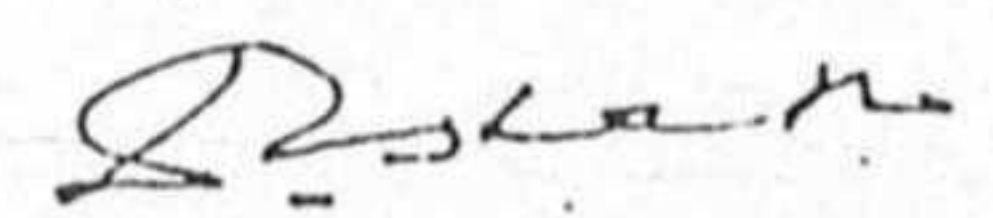
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K. K. Kishan
Secretary
Commission
Backward Classes

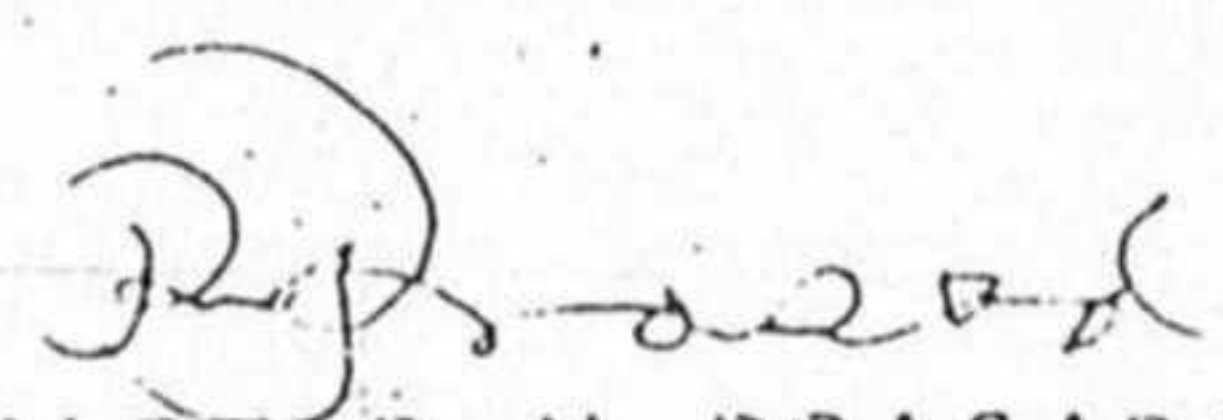
Several persons belonging to other communities have supported that the people of the PATARA/PATRA caste/ community are not only socially and educationally backward but also economically backward and most of them are quite poor. Some of them are (1) President of Shri Viswakarma Panchasilpi Swarnakar Sangham, Koraput, Orissa; (2) Dolagobind Pradhan (Chasa by caste) of Bhubaneswar; (3) Panchanana Pradhan President and Chandra Sekhar, Secretary of Orissa Anangrasara Jati Mahasabha; (4) Shri Srikanta Jena, M.P.; (5) Shri G. Krishna Rao, Secretary of Dewanga Sangham, Cuttack; (6) Shri R.K. Sahoo, Secretary, Orissa Other State Backward Classes Federation.

On the basis of the materials on record the Bench gives its finding that the caste/community known as PATARA/ is socially and educationally backward and also economically backward. The Bench, therefore, recommends that in the Central OBC List for Orissa there could be inclusion as follows:

"PATARA/PATRA"

NB. The pronunciation of the name of the community in the local language is as पाटरा. This is being indicated in order to avoid any phonetic confusion in pronouncing the name of the community in English.


(PROF. D.L. SHETH)
MEMBER


(JUSTICE R.N. PRASAD)
CHAIRMAN

11/3/96

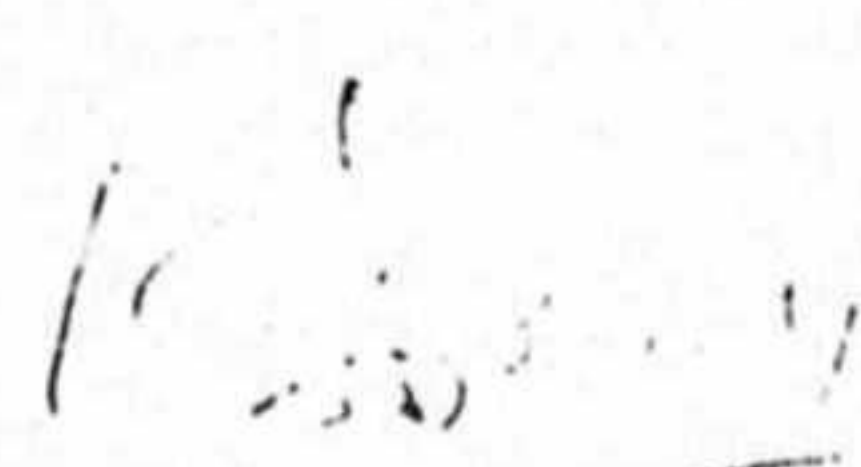
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

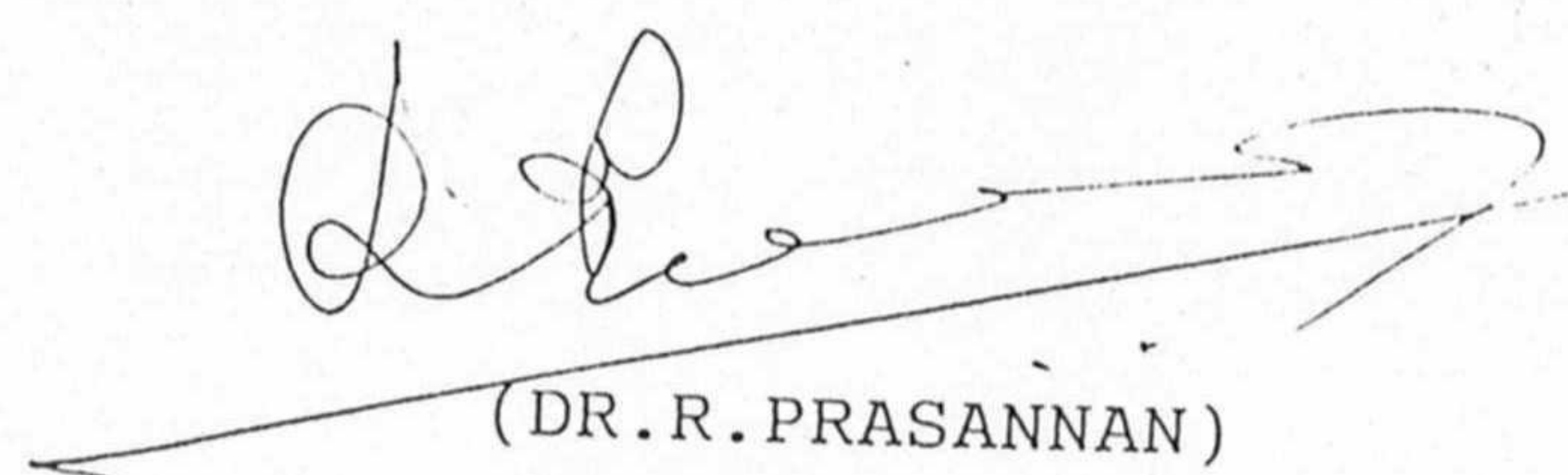
Advice No. ORISSA/ 7 /96

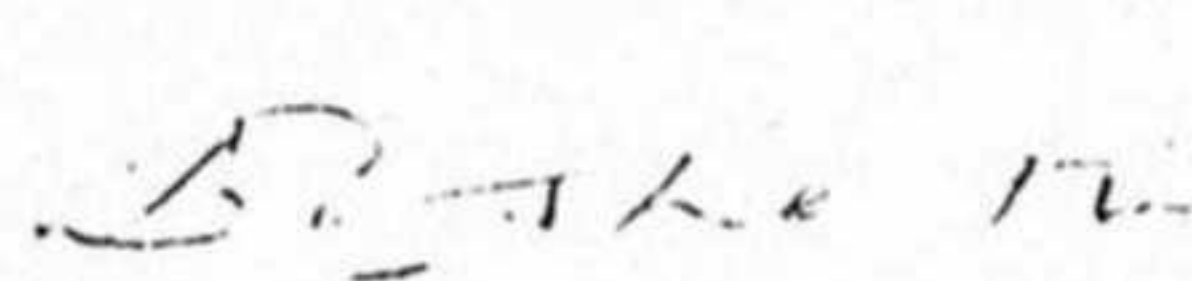
The Commission considered the findings of the Orissa Bench in respect of the Patara/Patra caste/community and being in full agreement tenders the following ADVICE to the Govt of India in terms of Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act 1993:-

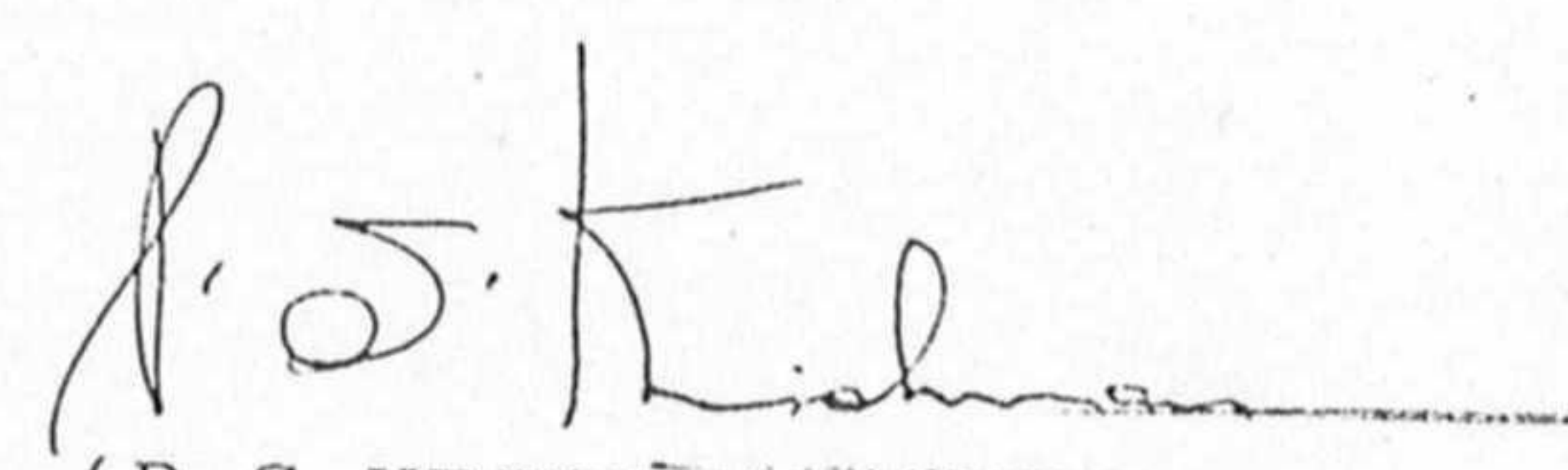
'The Caste Patara/Patra be added in the Central list of Backward Classes for Orissa as given below:

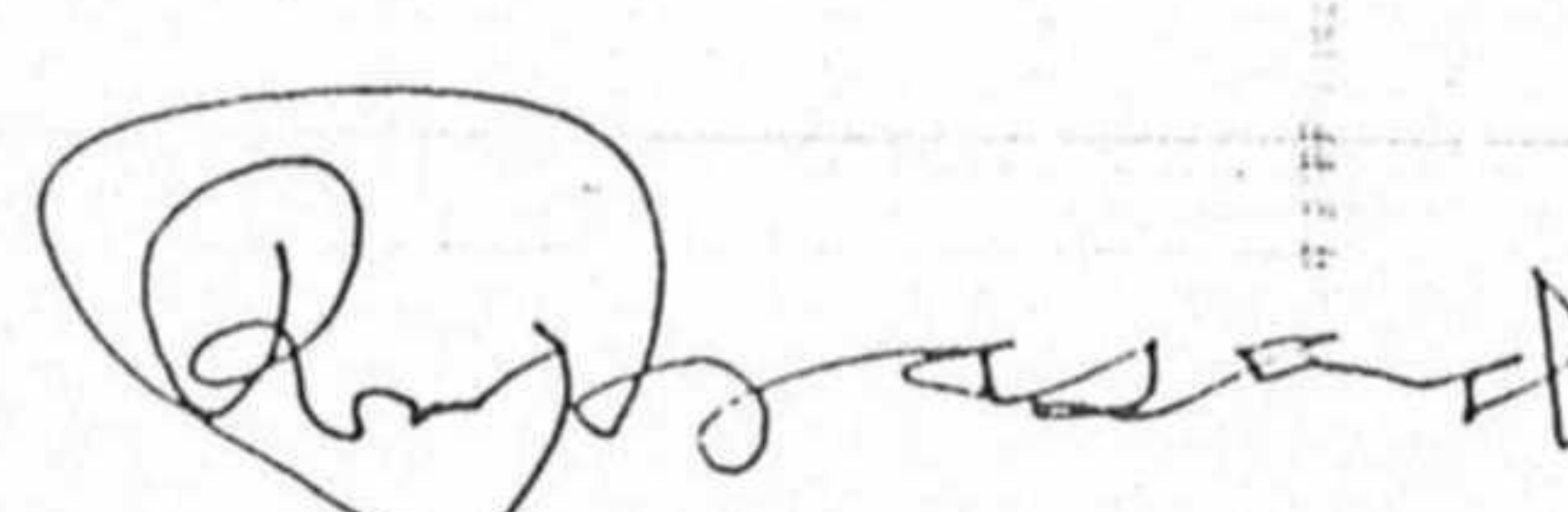
"PATARA/PATRA"

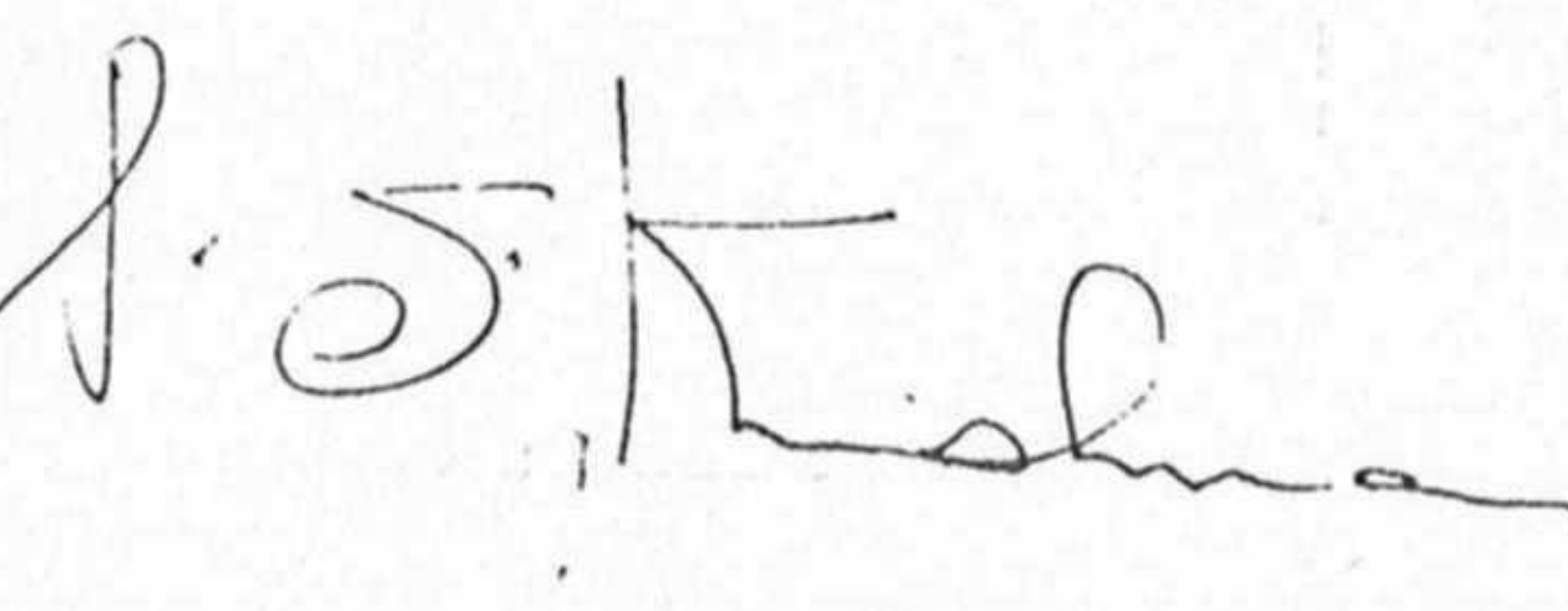

(DR. D.S. YADAV)
Member


(DR. R. PRASANNAN)
Member


(PROF. D.L. SHETH)
Member


(P.S. KRISHNAN)
Member-Secretary


(JUSTICE R.N. PRASAD)
Chairman


Justice 23/5/96
Chairman
National Commission for
Backward Classes
New Delhi.