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भारत सरकार
त्रिकूट-१, भीकाजी कामा प्लेस, नई दिल्ली - ११००६६

Member - Secretary
National Commission for Backward Classes
Government of India
Trikoot - 1 Bhikaiji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110 066

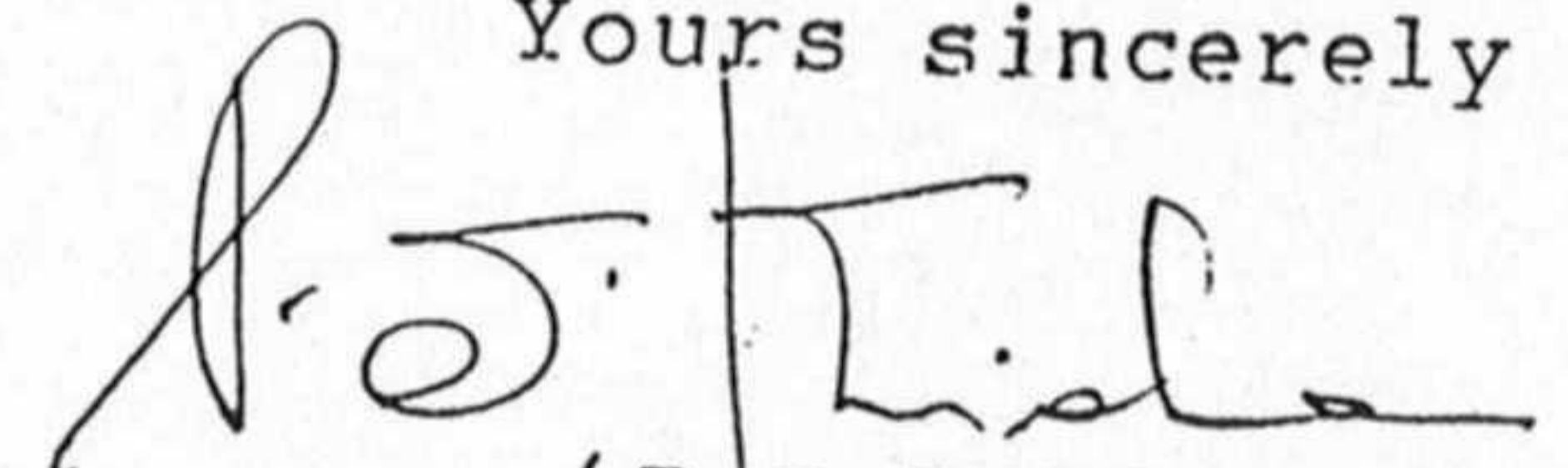
NCBC Advice No. Madhya Pradesh 45/99

11.06.1999

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 "Rawat" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Madhya Pradesh, duly authenticated, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the NCBC Act.

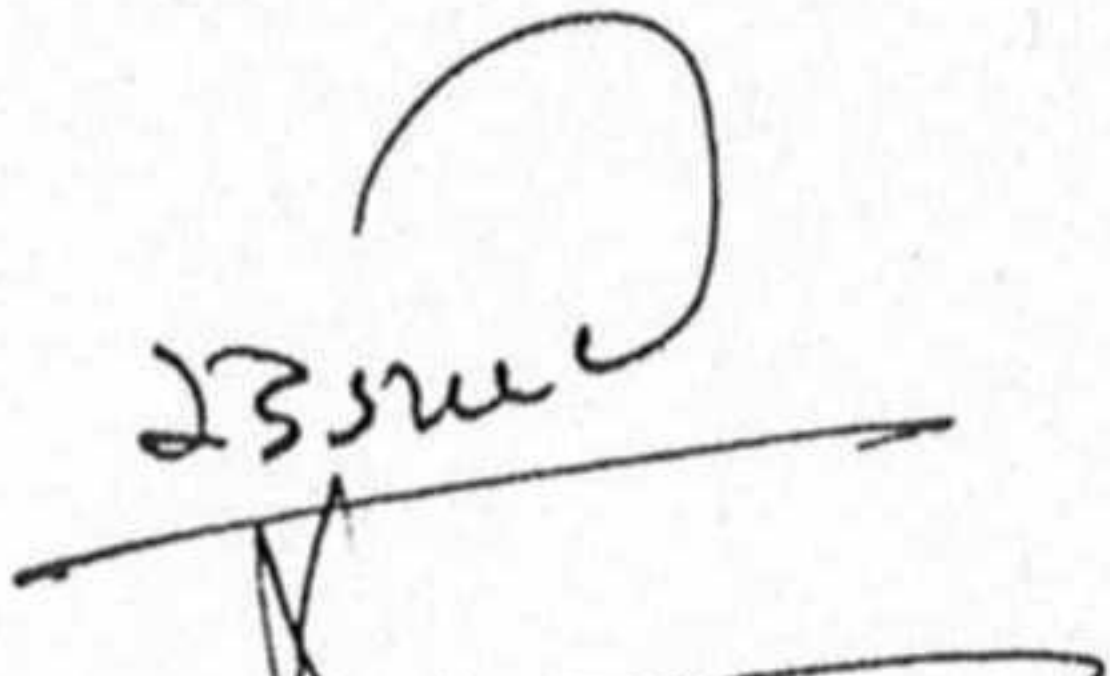
Yours sincerely


(P.S. KRISHNAN)

Encl: As stated.

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

O/c


15/6/99

NCBC Advice No. M.P.45/99

NATIONAL COMMISSION OF BACKWARD CLASSES

MADHYA PRADESH

FINDINGS

Case : Request for inclusion of "Rawat" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for the state of Madhya Pradesh.

PER SHRI SAHU AKSHAYA BHAI

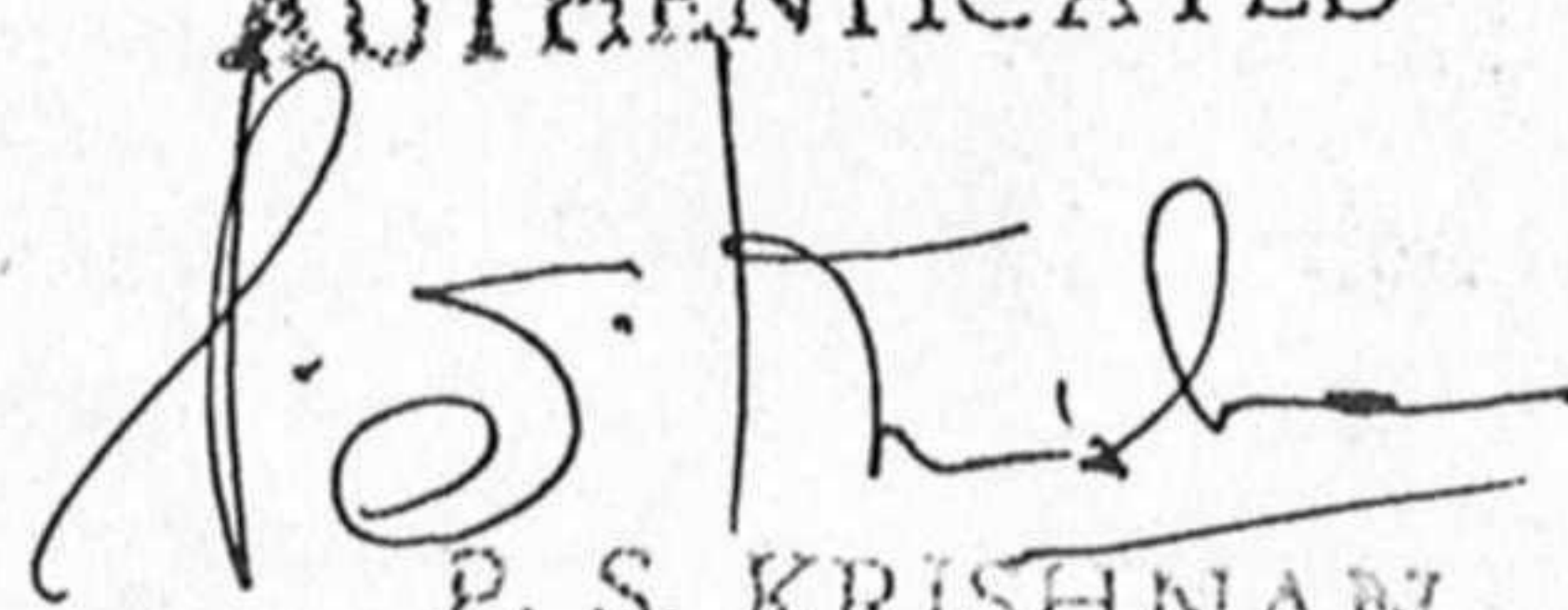
I. Request

1. This case arises out of the request received from Shri Babulal Amjhra, Secretary, Suryavanshi Rawat Thakur Samaj Samiti, Bhopal for inclusion of Rawat caste/community as an independent entry in the Central List of BCs for the state of Madhya Pradesh.

II. Public Hearing

2. The three Member Bench of the Commission for Madhya Pradesh consisting of Hon'ble Members S/Shri Sahu Akshaya Bhai and U.P. Singh and Navtej Puadhi held a Public Hearing at Bhopal on 3.6.98 to examine the request in respect of this case. The State Government was represented by Shri A.L. Naharia, Secretary and Shri Neeti Raj Singh, Deputy Director of State Commission for Backward Classes and Shri M.L. Khanna, Asstt. Director and Shri S.P. Tewari, Research Officer of Directorate of Backward Classes Welfare. The caste/community was represented by Shri Babulal Amjhra.

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III. Facts

3. The relevant entries of the caste/community in different lists are as follows:

Mandal List

"5 Ahir, Gavala, Goala, Gwal, Kansa, Thakur, Jadav, Yadav"

"68 Brijbasi"

"99 Gaoli, Lingayat-Gaoli"

"113 Gopal, Pangala-Gopal"

"237 Raot, Rawt, Raoti"

"240. Rawat, Beder, Gahira, Rast, Rawar, Thethwar"

State List

"1. Ahir, Brajwasi, Gwali, Goli, Jadav, (Yadav) Bargahi, Bargah, Thethwar, Raut, Gowari, (Gwari) Gowra, Gawari, Gwara, Gowari, Mahakul (Raut), Mahkul, Gop, Gwali, Lingayat".

"21. Meena (Rawat), Deshwali, Mewati, Meena, (excluding Sironj and Latery Tehsil of Vidhisha Distt.)"

Central List

"1 Ahir, Brajwasi, Gwali, Goli, Lingayati-Gaoli, Gowari, (Gwari), Gowra, Gawari, Gwara, Jadav, Yadav, Raut, Thethwar, Gop/Gopal"

4. 'Rawat' was not included in the Central List of Madhya Pradesh as it did not fulfil the criteria of Principle of Commonality (i.e. inclusion in the Central List of castes/communities which were found included in both the Mandal Commission's List as well as the State Government's List that existed at that time). 'Rawat' is included in the State List as a sub-caste

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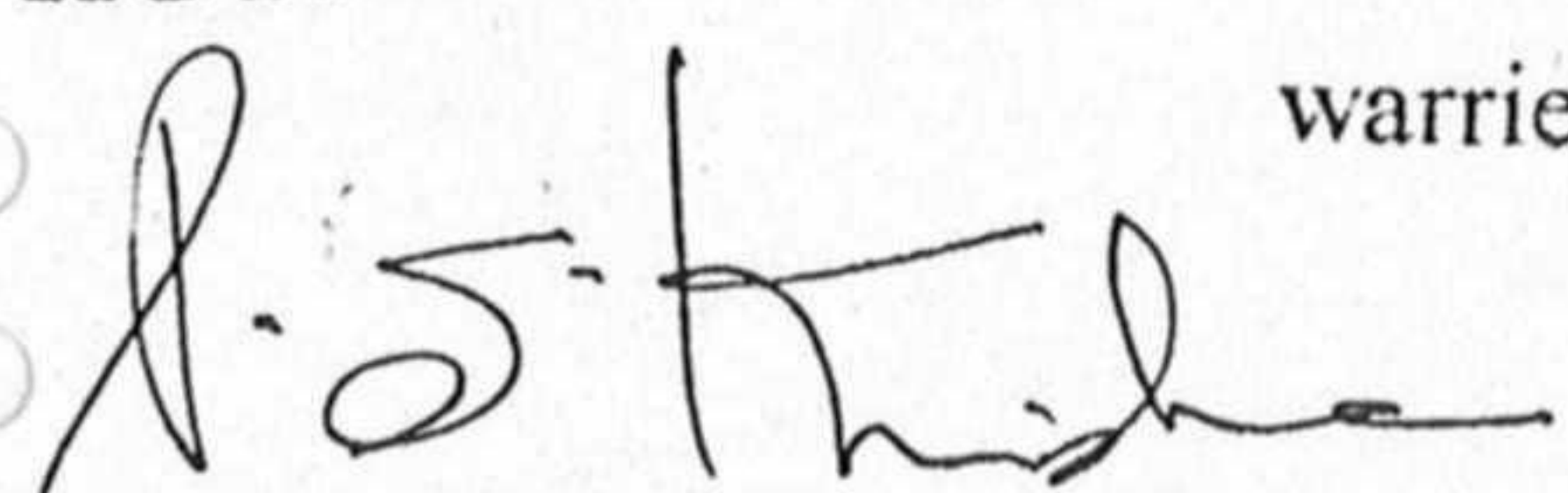
of 'Meena' and not as a separate entry and as an independent entry at Sl. No. 240 in the Mandal List.

5. The applicant in his request letter stated that the caste has been included in the State List of Madhya Pradesh as sub-caste of Meena at Sl. No. 21. He has also mentioned that the inclusion of their caste as a sub-caste of 'Meena' caste in the State List is an insult to the community. It is further stated that this type of inclusion in the State List is of no use and the caste should be included by giving a separate entry. It has further been stated that their social status is much higher than Meena's and they are not a sub-caste/synonym of Ahir or Meena castes. The caste/community has not submitted filled-up NCBC's Questionnaire.

6. During the Public Hearing the representative of the caste/community stated that their occupation is farming. He has submitted that they are not socially backward, and their fore-fathers were associated with the rulers. He has mentioned that somewhere the caste/community is included in SC list and at some place in the list of Backward Classes, and requested that there should be uniformity. One Suraj Singh Maran who was present during the Public Hearing has told that the origin of 'Rawats' is from Meena, Maran, Chauhan of Rajasthan.

7. The applicant has enclosed photocopies of different Historical documents such as 'Kshatriya Vanshavalī', Gwalior State 'Gazzetter' in support of his statement that 'Rawats' originally belong to Rajputs of Rajasthan. It is further revealed from the scrutiny of these documents that the people of the caste/community under consideration are descendant of Rajputs of Rajasthan who have been rulers for centuries. According to the document 'Kisnavat Chudavat' which contains the history of Rajput Chieftains, 'Rawat' is a title given to the Rajput warriors of Mewar. Col Tod has also described in his book 'Rajasthan

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Itihas' that Rawat is a title which was given to the following persons of Sisodia Clan:

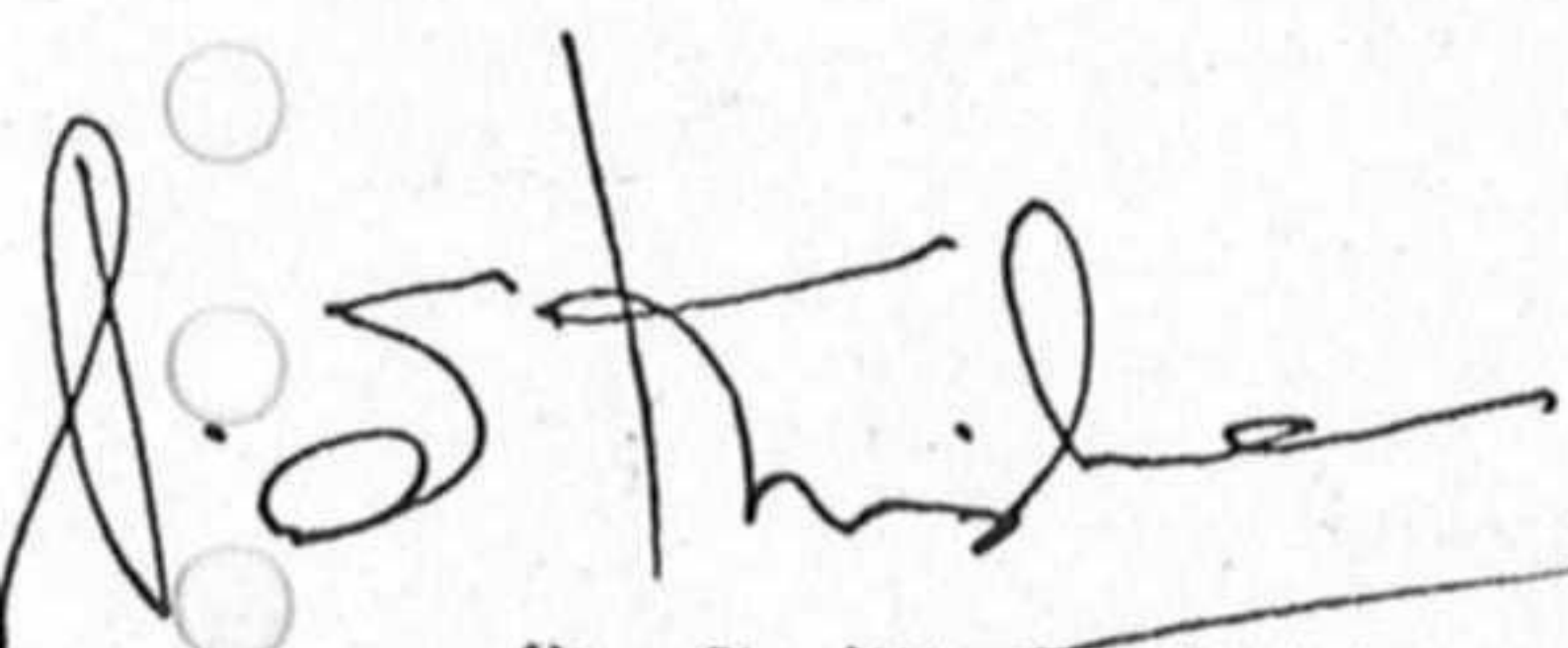
Padamsingh, Gokuldas, Mahasingh, Sakimsingh, Fatehsingh, Salimsingh, Kasersingh and Javansingh.

8. The People of India series on Rajasthan (Published by Popular Prakashan Pvt. Ltd. on behalf of the Anthropological Survey of India, Mumbai, 1998) contains the following account of "Rawat".

"The Rawat have clan organisation which is strictly exogamous. Their major clans include Chauhan, Bargat, Bhati, Solanki, Parmar, Daima and Chittah. They have mostly adopted Rajput clan names. The function of the clan is to regulate marriage alliances. The Rawat perceive themselves at the middle of the regional hierarchy. They are aware of Varna system and recognised their status along with the Kshatriyas. They are endogamous at community level. Consanguinity is not allowed. Junior sororate is allowed among the Rawat. Adult marriage is the rule..... The Rawat profess Hinduism..... The Brahman is their sacred specialist. The pilgrim centers of the Rawat are Hardwar, Rishikesh, Keshoraijee etc".

9. The applicant's letterhead mention "Suryavanshi Rawat Thakur Samaj." This reveals their connection with Suryavanshi Thakurs. R.V. Russell and Hiralal in "The Tribes and castes of the Central Province of India" (Published by Asian Educational Service, New Delhi, reprinted in 1993, Vol. IV, P. 467) have described 'Rajput, Surajvansi' as "The Surajvansi (Descendants of the Sun) is recorded as the first of the thirty-six royal clans, but Col. James Tod gives no account of it, and it does not seem to be known to history as a separate clan."

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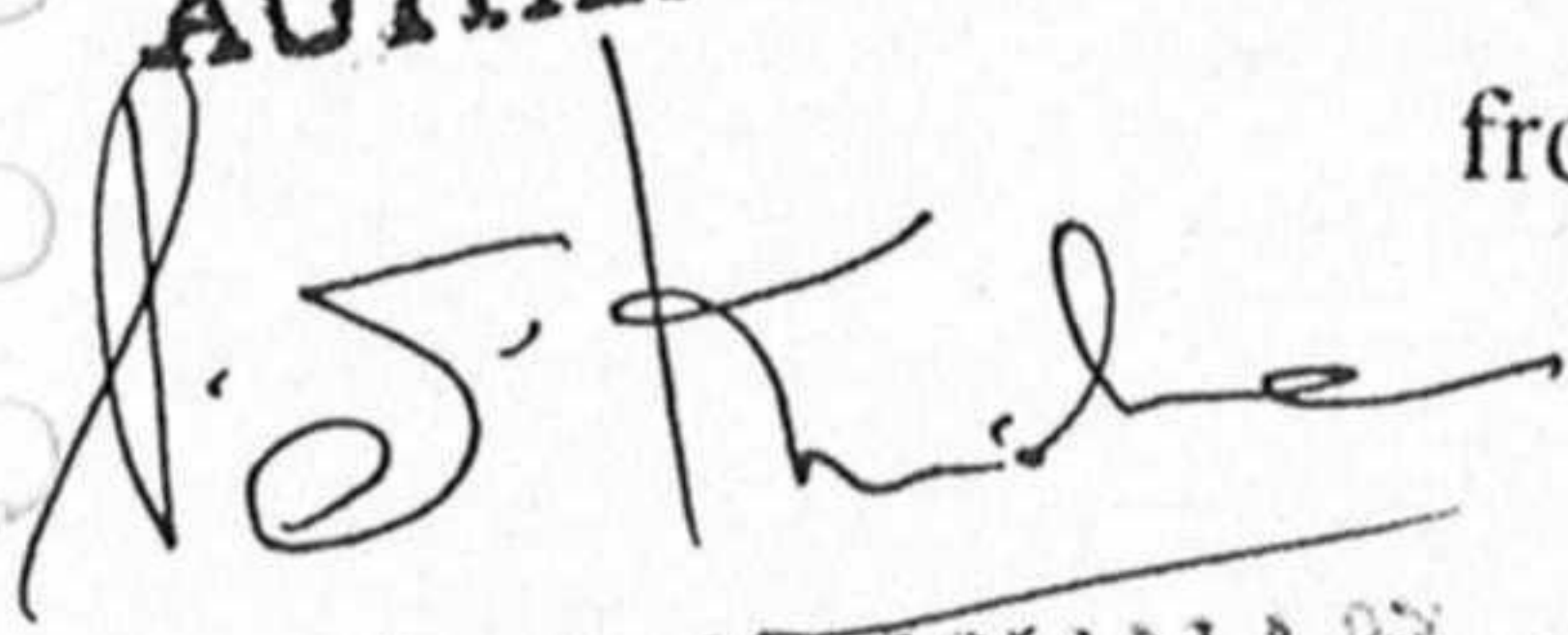

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10. State Government of Madhya Pradesh on the recommendation of the Madhya Pradesh State commission for Backward Classes while rejecting the request for inclusion of 'Rawat' as a sub-caste or synonym of Ahir at entry no 1, has stated that no request was made by these people to the Mahajan commission which was formed to identify the Backward Classes in M.P. by the State Government in 1980 vide notification no F/ 8-3/80/2/25 dated 17.11.80. They took cognizance of the possibility of some Raut using Rawat as their surname but did not favour inclusion of Rawat as sub caste/ synonym as many other castes which are decidedly socially forward and do not deserve for the inclusion in the BCs List, also use Rawat as their surname and inclusion of Rawat will result in misuse. They therefore concluded that 'Raut' which is included as synonym of 'Ahir' should use their original caste name which is a sub-group of Ahir, Yadav and rejected the request of inclusion of Rawat as sub case/ synonym of Ahir.

IV. Findings

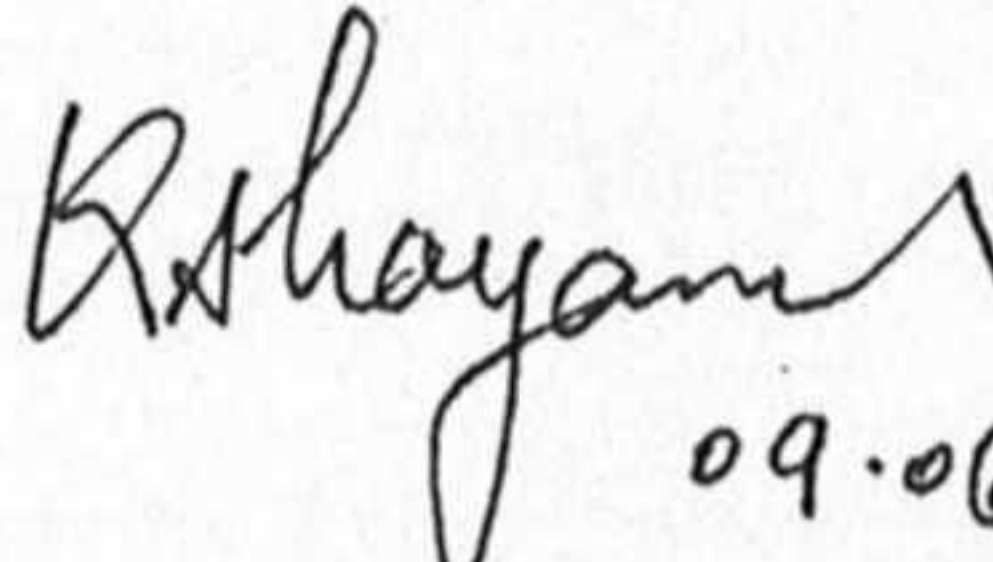
11. From the above facts and evidence it was found by the Bench that 'Rawat' is not a socially backward caste/community and the people of this caste/ community perceive themselves as descendent of Surjavanshi Rajput caste/community. Rajput community stands second in social hierarchy and their social position is next to Brahmans in the traditional Varna System, while in the secular social context, Rajputs are perceived in some respects as even higher than, and at any rate not lower than Brahmans. The representation is from secretary, Suryavanshi Rawat Thakur Samaj Samiti, Bhopal and their argument that inclusion of Rawat as sub-caste of Meena caste is an insult to their prestige, betrays typical arrogance which is normally associated with upper castes. It also appears from the perusal of the findings of the Madhya Pradesh Backward Classes

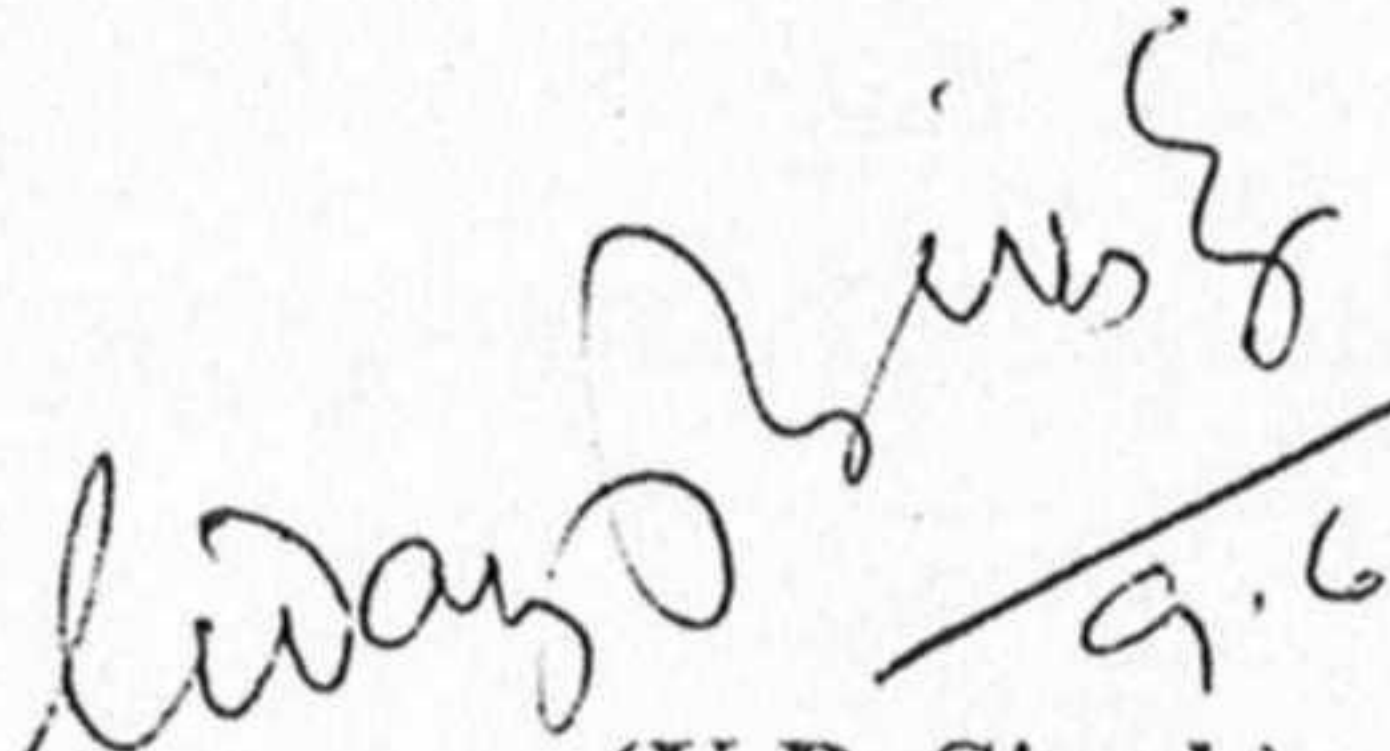
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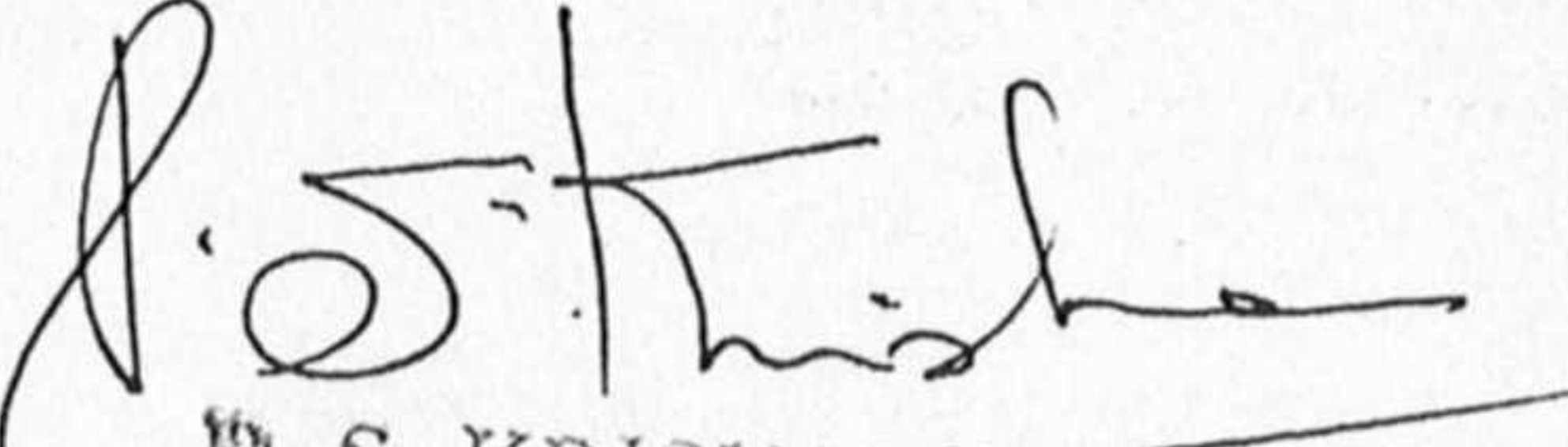
Commission that they made a request for inclusion of Rawat as synonym of Ahir whereas in their letter under consideration, they wanted an independent entry of Rawat as they are not the sub-caste/synonym of Ahir or Meena, which is contradictory to their request to the state BC Commission and indicate their uncertain, wavering and dubious state of mind typical of a dilemma between the reality of high social status and an unrealistic desire to secure a place in the list of BCs and thereby the benefits of reservation. The Bench is of the view that the request for inclusion of 'Rawat' in the Central List of Backward Classes for Madhya Pradesh should be rejected.

As one of the Members of the Bench Shri Navtej Puadhi unfortunately passed away on 16.08.1998, the Findings are formulated and signed only by two Members, including the coordinating Member of the Bench.


09.06.99
(Sahu Akshaya Bhai)


9.6.99
(U.P. Singh)

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V. Advice of the Commission

12. The Commission considered and agreed in full with the Findings of the Madhya Pradesh 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.

The request for inclusion of "Rawat" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Madhya Pradesh be rejected as it is not a socially backward caste/community.

On account of the unfortunate demise of one of the Members Shri Navtej Puadhi on 16.8.98, this unanimous Advice of the Commission does not bear the signature of that Member. The validity of the Advice notwithstanding the vacancy caused by the demise of the aforesaid Member, is protected by Section 7 of the NCBC Act, 1993.

K. Shyam
09.06.99

Madan Singh
4.6.99

P. S. Krishnan
10.6.99

P. S. Krishnan
10.6.99

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