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सदस्य-सचिव
राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग

भारत सरकार
त्रिकूट-१, भीकानजी 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. 100, 101 Karnataka/98

13. 10. 1998

Dear Shri Manavalan,

I am sending herewith the Advices of the National Commission for Backward Classes under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act for the Inclusion of

- (1) Bhandari
- (2) Siddi

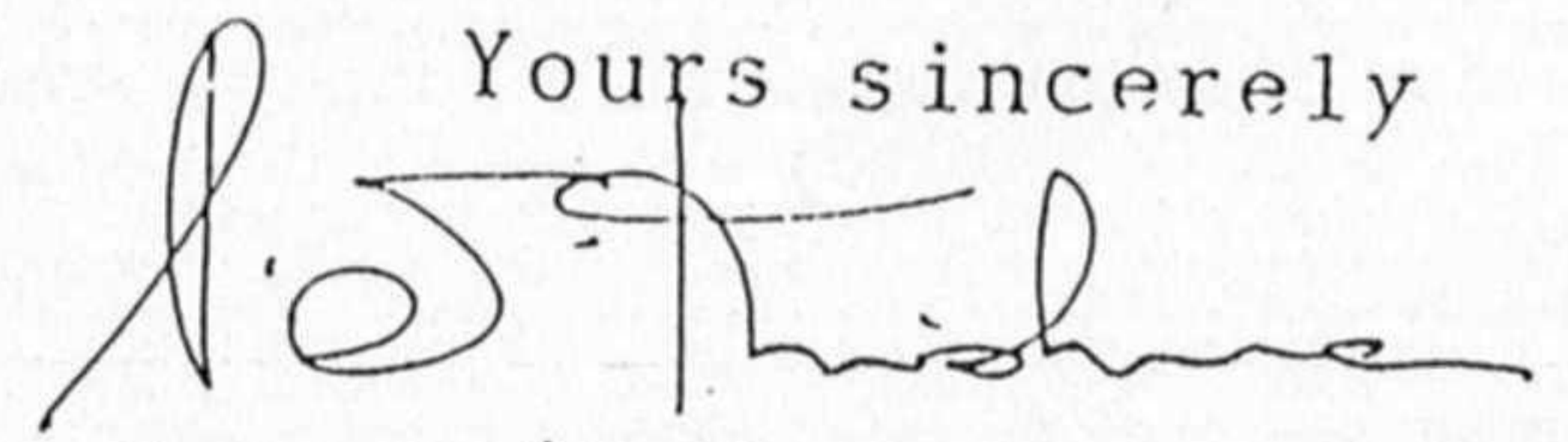
castes/communities in the Central List of Backward Classes for Karnataka, duly authenticated, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the Act.

2. With these, Advices on 425(249 for Inclusion + 176 for Rejection) castes, sub-castes, synonyms etc. have been tendered to the Government by the Commission, after its reconstitution in 1997, of which 419 (243 for Inclusion + 176 for Rejection) are still pending with the Government for Notification.

Encl: As stated.

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

Yours sincerely


(P.S. KRISHNAN)

E/C

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

Karnataka Bench

Findings

Per Shri Justice P.K. Shyamsundar, Chairperson

Case: Request for Inclusion of "**Bhandari**" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Karnataka.

I. Request

This case arises from the Request received in this Commission from Shri P.Y. Pednekar, Chairman, Uttara Kannada Zilla Bhandari Samajonnat Sangh, Uttara Kanada District, Karnataka for inclusion of "**Bhandari**" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Karnataka.

II. Public Hearing

2. The two-Member Karnataka Bench of the Commission consisting of Shri 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 Bangalore on 17.09.98. The State Govt. was represented by Shri K. Narayan, Director, Shri S. Krishna Gowda, Joint Director, Shri Thippe Swamy, Shri N. Mahesh and Smt. B.A. Gouramma, Assistant Directors of Department of Backward Classes & Minorities Welfare, Govt. of Karnataka. The community was represented by Shri P.Y. Pednekar, Chairman, Uttara Kannadas Zilla Bhandari Samajonnat Sangh, Uttara Kannada District, Karnataka Shri A.J. Manakikar, Shri V.M. Bhandari, Shri Nagraj G. Nayak and others.

AUTHENTICATED

[Signature]

III. Facts

3. "Bhandari" is included in the State List as a synonym of Idiga follows:

CATEGORY 11(A)

- 3(a) Idiga
(b) Bandhari

.....
.....

It is not included either in the Mandal List or in the Central List of Backward Classes.

4. The written representation received from the applicant Shri P.Y. Pednekar states that Bhandaris who migrated from Goa settled in Karnataka some 250 years ago. Earlier they were engaged in their traditional occupation of toddy-tapping but none of the members of the community were involved in this occupation at present due to the prohibition on the open market sale of toddy, liquor, wine etc imposed by Government. Some of the community members were also engaged as manual labourers.

The questionnaire filled in by the community states that their members of the community are spread all over Karnataka but a larger population is concentrated in the districts of Uttara Kannada and Belgam. Only 35% of the members of the caste are literate. At present the members of the community are engaged as agricultural labourers, manual labourers and coolies.

5. During the Public Hearing, the representatives of Bhandari community stated that earlier they were engaged in the traditional occupation of toddy-tapping but at present none of the members are doing their traditional occupation. While most of their members are now agricultural labourers, some are engaged as transporters of goods in boats (country-craft). They also clarified that they do not have any connection with the toddy-tapping community of Idigas and therefore Bhandari may be included separately.

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Classes

6. R.E. Enthovan (The Tribes And Castes of Bombay Vol-I) under the head Bhandaris writes as follows:

"Bhandaris, also known as Bhavagunas, numbering 168,667 (1901), including 82,194 males and 86,473 females, are found in almost every district of the Presidency, and in most of the Native States, but chiefly reside in Ratnagiri, Kanara, Kolaba, Thana, Bombay City and the State of Savantvadi. They are called Madkars to the south of the Gangavali river in the Kanara district. Their occupation is drawing toddy from palm trees, and their name is probably derived from the Sanskrit mandharak, a distiller (Bom. Gazetteer, Vol. XV, Part I, P.286)".

7. The Chinnappa Reddy Commission has found the Bhandari community as backward and therefore included it in its recommended list as a synonym of Idiga. The inclusion of Bhandari along with Idiga in the State List of Backward Classes is apparently on the basis of the Chinnappa Reddy Commission's Report.

8. There were no objections from those present during the hearing who were from different sections of society.

VI. Findings

9. From the above material, it is the finding of the Bench that Bhandari is a caste traditionally associated with the occupation of toddy-tapping and it constitutes a socially and educationally Backward class. Bhandari should therefore be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Karnataka at entry No.180 as follows:

"180. Bhandari"

J. C. Sanyal

7.10.98

P. S. Kishan

7.10.98

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P. S. Kishan
Member
National
Backward Classes

V. ADVICE OF THE COMMISSION

10. The Commission considered and agreed in full with the above Findings of the Karnataka Bench and decided to tender the following Advice to the Central Government under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act 1993 for action by the Central Government under section 9(2) of the Act:-

"Bhandari" caste/community be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Karnataka at **Entry No.180** as follows:-

"180. Bhandari"

P. S. Krishnan
7.10.98

P. S. Krishnan
7.10.98

12.10.98

Kshayan
13.10.98

Note: On account of the unfortunate demise of one of the Members Shri Navtej Puadhi on 16.08.98, 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

ATTENTIFIED

P. S. KRISHNAN
Member
National Commission
for Backward Classes

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

Karnataka Bench

Findings

Per Shri Justice P.K. Shyamsundar, Chairperson

Case: Request for Inclusion of "**Siddi**" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Karnataka.

I. Request

This case arises from the Request received in this Commission from Shri Raveendranath Naik, President, North Kanara District Backward Forum (regd) Taluka Siri, North Kanara, Karnataka for inclusion of "**Siddi**" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Karnataka.

II. Public Hearing

2. The two-Member Karnataka Bench of the Commission consisting of Shri 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 Bangalore on 17.09.98. The State Govt. was represented by Shri K. Narayan, Director, Shri S. Krishna Gowda, Joint Director, Shri Thippe Swamy, Shri N. Mahesh and Smt. B.A. Gouramma, Assistant Directors of Department of Backward Classes & Minorities Welfare, Govt. of Karnataka. Shri Raveendranath Naik, President, North Kanara District Backward Forum and four members of the community appeared before the Bench to give evidence.

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

III. Facts

3. Siddi caste/community is included in the latest State List at Category I as follows:

"41. Siddi"

It is not included either in the Mandal List or in the Central List.

4. The written representation received from the community states that "Siddis" were the descendants of African Negroes, who were brought to India by Arabs, the Portuguese and the Dutch. They are chiefly found in the forest areas of Ankola, Mundgod, Haliyal and Yellapur taluks. The total population of the community in these areas is about 17,367. There are Hindus, Muslims and Christians among Siddis. Siddi Hindus speak Are-Marathi, a mixture of Marathi, Konkani and Kannada. Siddi Muslims are Sunnis and are a separate section among Muslims. They are not allowed to have marital relationship with local Muslims. They also speak Urdu. Siddi Christians are Catholics. They do not have intimate relationship with local Christians. Apart from their main occupation as coolies and forest workers, they are also engaged in harvesting honey and hunting.

5. During the public hearing Shri Raveendranath Naik stated that Siddi community includes Hindus, Muslims and Christians as well. Inter-marriages takes place within the religious divisions of Siddi community. He also apprised the Bench that most of the members of the community are manual labourers and are even treated like untouchables.

6. Ethnographer R.E Enthovan in his book titled "The Tribes and Castes of Bombay" writes under the head Sidi as follows:

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

Sidis or Habshis, literally Masters, numbering 12,848 (1901), including 6,767 males and 6,081 females, are found in small numbers in all parts of Gujarat districts and States and in the Janjira State and the Kanara District. They are both Musalman and Hindu, the latter being known as Maratha Sidis, the two divisions having nothing in common except the fact that they originally belonged to the same stock. In parts of Kanara a few Christian converts are found.....

Musalman Sidis live mostly by house service and begging. Still, Indian history is not wanting in instances of Sidis raising themselves to position and power.....

Maratha Sidis are hardworking and robust, but cruel and given to robbery, and are regarded by their neighbours with fear and distrust. They work either as field labourers or on public works.

They drink liquor, and have no scruples about eating any flesh except beef, from which they abstain.

They rank next to Arers, Kunbis, and fishermen, above Mahars and other impure classes."

7. The Chinnappa Reddy Commission found Siddis to be Socially and Educationally Backward and therefore recommended for inclusion in the State List of Backward Classes. Siddi is also found included in the recommended Lists of earlier Commissions/committee, Viz Venkataswamy Commission, Havanur Commission and Nagan Gowda Committee.

8. In the report of Gujarat State Backward Classes Committee (Bakshi) it is mentioned that "*Siddis might have come to Gujarat and particularly to Saurashtra as personal guards to Rulers but at present, they do petty services such as private guards, motor drivers, hotel-boys and other miscellaneous labour.*

AUTHENTICATED

The Siddis stay in 'Bhungas' i.e small huts in Kutch and in mud houses with local tiles at other places..

The level of literacy amongst Siddis is varying; at some places being low. The percentage of secondary and higher education is also low...."

The report further states that Siddis are even considered as Scheduled Tribes in the ex-Saurashtra State area whereas their counterpart in the other regions of Gujarat are considered as a Backward Class.

VI Findings

9. On the basis of the above factual material, it is the finding of the Bench that Siddi caste/community is socially and educationally backward and therefore the Bench recommends its inclusion in the Central List of Backward Classes at entry No.181, as follows:

"181. Siddi"

P. K. Verma S.
8.10.98

A. S. Krishna

8.10.98

AUTHENTICATED

A. S. Krishna

8.10.98
Commissioner
Backward Classes

