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सदस्य-सचिव
राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग
भारत सरकार
त्रिकूट-१, भीकाजी कामा प्लेस, नई दिल्ली - ११००६६

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

NCBC Advice No. A.P. 40/98

11.12.1998

Dear Shri Manavalan,

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

Yours sincerely

(P.S. KRISHNAN)

Encl: As stated.

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

14/12/98

0/c

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

Andhra Pradesh Bench

FINDINGS

Per Shri P.S.Krishnan, Member-Secretary

Case: Request for Inclusion of "Jettty" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Andhra Pradesh

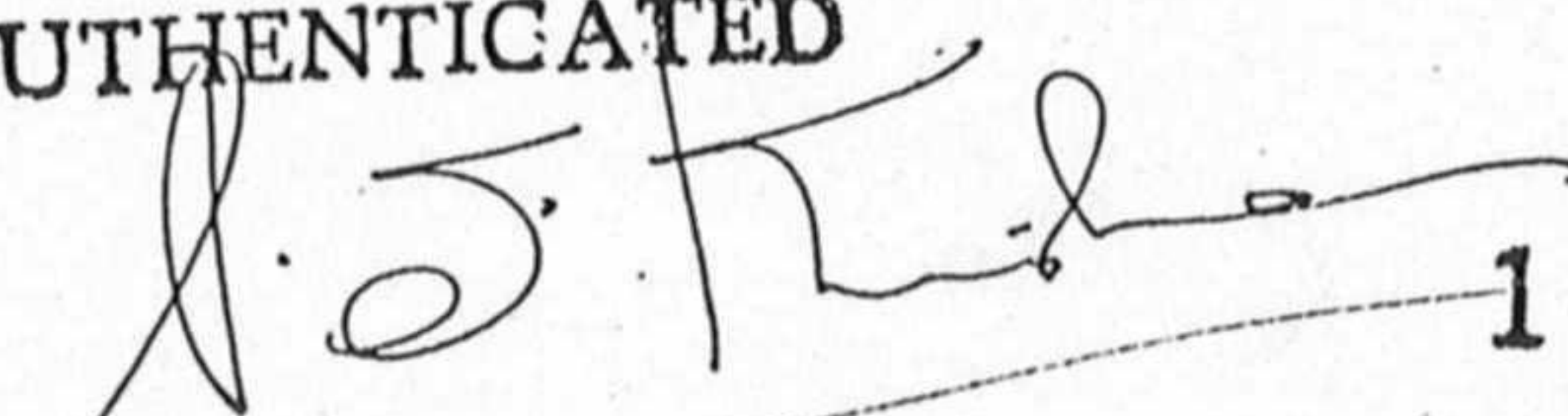
I. Request

This case arises from the Request received in this Commission from Shri Satyanarayana Jetty for the Inclusion of "Jetty" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Andhra Pradesh. A similar Request has also been received from Shri Bhaskara Rao, President, Jetty Community Welfare Organisation, 3-741, Jetty Palem, Srikalahasti.

II. Public Hearing

2. The Two-Member Andhra Pradesh Bench of the NCBC consisting of Shri P.S.Krishnan, Hon'ble Member-Secretary and Shri Sahu Akshaya Bhai, Hon'ble Member held a Public Hearing inter alia in respect of this caste/community at Hyderabad on 6.5.98. At the Public Hearing the State Government was represented by Shri L. Shafiquzzaman, Secretary in charge of Backward Classes Welfare, Shri Chandrasekhara Rao, Joint-Director, BC Welfare and other officers in the office of the Commissioner for Backward Classes Welfare. The community was represented by Shri B.Kesavulu Jetty, Shri B.Arunakumar Jetty and others.

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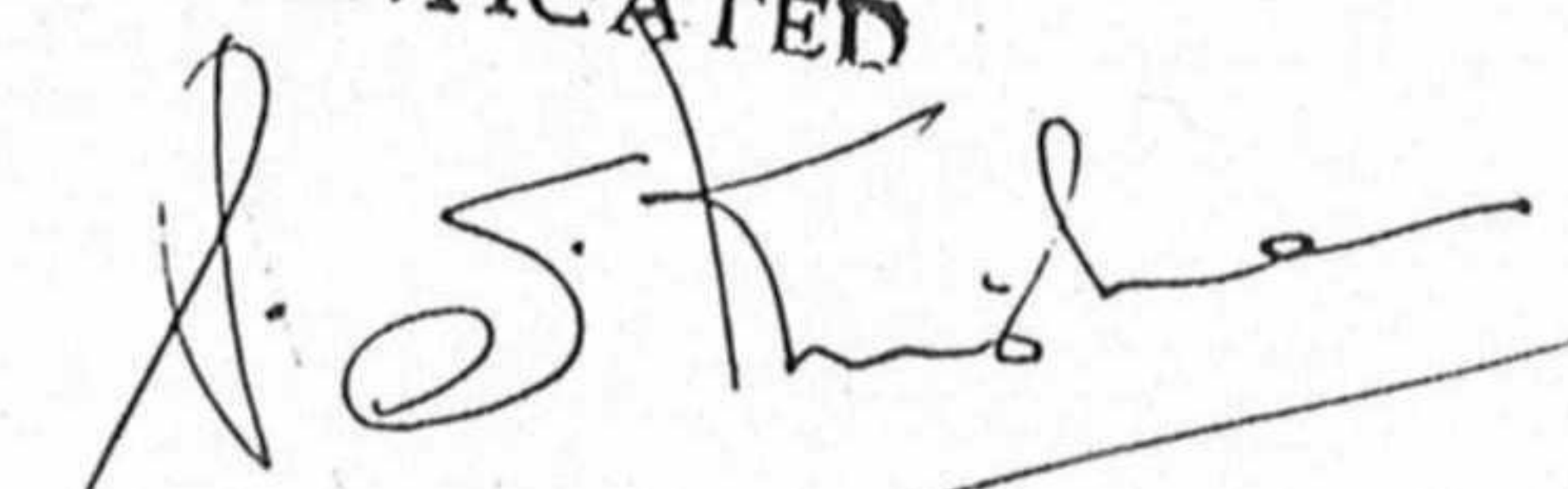

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III. Facts

3. "Jetty" is included at entry no. 85 in the Mandal Commission's List of Backward Classes for Andhra Pradesh. It is not included in the State Government's List of Backward Classes as it existed at the time of the preparation of the first-phase Central List of BCs for Andhra Pradesh and therefore it is also not included in the first-phase Central List of Backward Classes for Andhra Pradesh prepared on the basis of the principle of commonality (i.e, inclusion in the Central List of castes/sub-castes/ communities which were found included in both the State Government's List as well as the Mandal Commission's List) in 1993. Even now, this caste/community is not included in the State List. Neither of the two Backward Classes Commissions of the State, viz., Anantharaman Commission and Muralidhar Rao Commission had recommended this caste/community for inclusion in the BC List.

4. Shri Satyanarayana Jetty in his letter of Request has submitted that the "Jhetty" community in Andhra Pradesh is "Economically, Educationally, Socially and culturally very backward... During the British period it was recognised as a Backward Class community and it was continued as such uptill 1976. In the year 1976 the caste was dropped from the list of Backward Classes only in the Andhra Pradesh for reasons yet not known. It is continued to be a Backward Class in the States of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka even today." It is further submitted that "there are only 500 families in entire India, populated less than 5000.... All are dependent on manual labour for sustenance. Hence it is a just and fit case to recognise Jhetty community as a Backward Class by the Government of India." Similar averments are made in the letter of Request received from Shri D.Bhaskara Rao, additionally stating inter alia that the caste is also included in the Central list of Backward Classes for

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Pondicherry.

5. In the NCBC's questionnaire filled up and furnished by Jetty's Association, Venkatagiri the main occupation on which the members of the caste/community depend for their livelihood is given as "Agricultural labourers & coolies". "Teaching gymnastics" is stated to be traditional occupation of the caste/community.

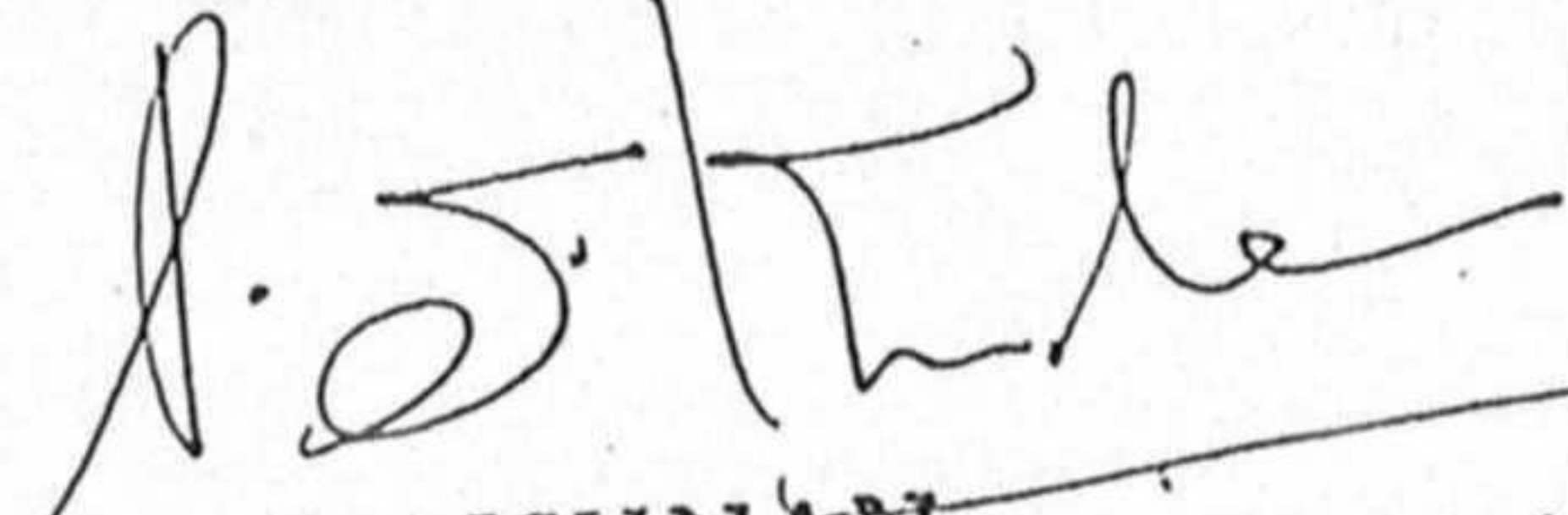
6. During the Public Hearing the representatives of the community stated that most of the members of the community are cultivators. They admitted that out of a total population of 15,000, more than 6000 own land. According to them 40% of the members of the community live in villages. They also stated that members of their community are doing the work of Safai Karmacharis.

7. The caste/community under consideration is described by Edgar Thurston and Rangachari (Castes and Tribes of Southern India, Asian Educational Services, New Delhi, Madras, 1993, Vol.II, first published 1909) under the head 'Jetti' as follows:-

"Jetti. -- A Telugu caste of professional wrestlers and gymnasts, who, in the Telugu districts, shampoo and rub in ointments to cure nerve pains and other disorders. In Tanjore, though living in a Tamil environment, they speak Telugu. They wear the sacred thread, and consider themselves to be of superior caste, never descending to any degrading work. During the days of the Rajas of Tanjore, they were employed in guarding the treasury and jewel rooms. But, since the death of the late Raja, most of them have emigrated to Mysore and other Native States, a few only remaining in Tanjore, and residing in the fort.

The Jettis, in Mysore, are said [Rice, Mysore and Coorg

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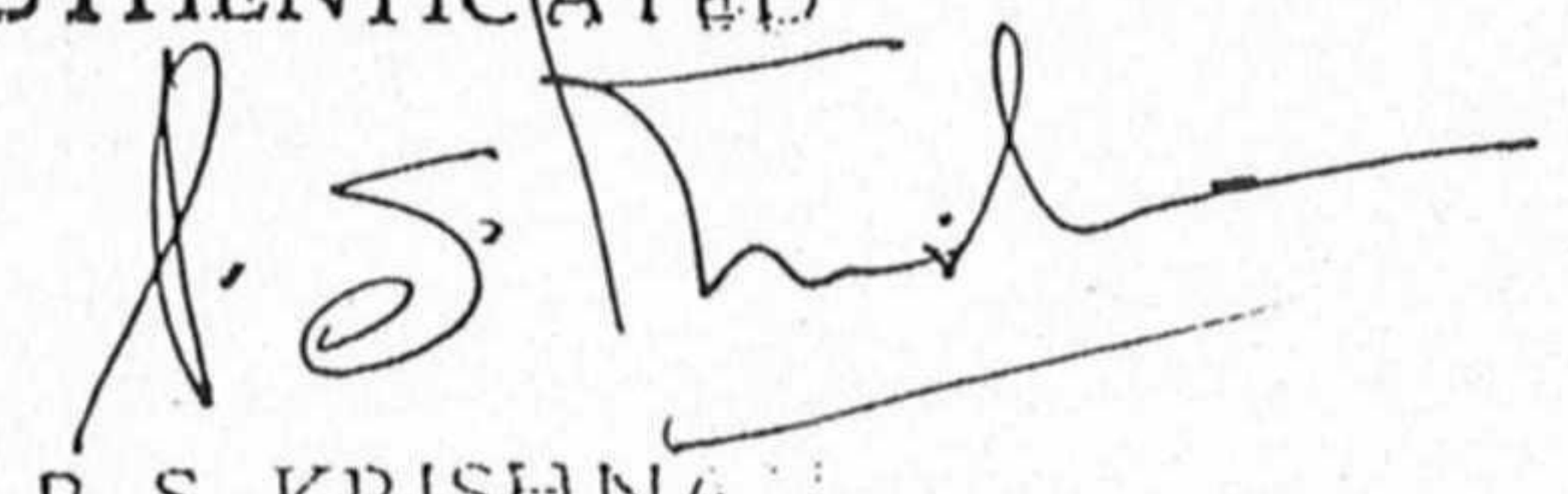
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Gazetteer] to have sometimes employed as executioners, and to have despatched their victim by a twist of the neck....."

8. Regarding Jetties of Karnataka, L.K.A. Iyer (The Mysore Tribes and Castes, Mittal Publications, Delhi, 1988, Vol. 3) writes that the "Jetties are a Telugu caste of professional wrestlers and gymnasts, who are found chiefly in the Mysore district, and in the Bangalore city. They call themselves Malla Kshatriya or Chanura Mallas, and affix the title of Jetty or Raju, and sometimes Malla after their personal names to denote their caste. The word jetty is probably a corruption of jayeshti (one desirous of winning victory)" L.K.A. Iyer further observes that "The Jettis are high up in the social scale of castes and have no special disabilities".

9. The profile of the caste/community that emerges from the above account is not that of a socially backward caste/community. Therefore, the caste/community prima facie does not deserve inclusion in the List of Backward Classes. No evidence whatsoever has been furnished by the request-making parties to establish that they are socially backward except to say that the community was recognised as Backward during British period and, in Andhra Pradesh, upto 1976 and also that the caste/community is included in List of Backward Classes in Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Karnataka. The Bench felt that these are not adequate grounds. The List of BCs during the British period was rooted in a situation of the past in which Brahmins alone predominated in education, professions and Government employment, and the present State List of Tamil Nadu is, as a result, a nearly all-inclusive list. In the case of Pondicherry List it is not only nearly all-inclusive as in the case of the Tamil Nadu list but also over-inclusive in that many of the castes in the Pondicherry List do not even exist in Pondicherry. The inclusion of "Jetty" in the Central Lists of Backward Classes for Tamil

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Nadu and Pondicherry is only the result of mechanical process of inclusion of castes/communities in the Central Lists based on the commonality principle (ie inclusion in the Central List of those castes/communities which were found included in both Mandal Commission's List as well as the State Government's List) and was not based on any indepth examination of each caste/community with respect to the factum of backwardness. In Karnataka, the State Government's Lists of BCs issued from time to time are not only nearly all-inclusive as in the case of Tamil Nadu but they are also partly at variance with the Lists recommended by different Commissions. This is also true in the case of Jetty whose inclusion in the State List is inspite of the fact that the first (Havanur), the Second (Venkataswamy) and Third (Chinnappa Reddy) Backward Classes Commissions did not recommend the inclusion of this caste/community in their respective recommended lists. The Chinnappa Reddy Commission has come to a definite finding that Jetties "cannot be classified as Socially and Educationally Backward Class".

IV. Findings

10. From the above material and evidence, the Bench has come to the Finding that "Jetty" caste/community of Andhra Pradesh does not deserve inclusion in the Central List of Backward Classes as it is not a Socially Backward class. The Requests for its inclusion in the Central List of Backward Classes for Andhra Pradesh should therefore be rejected.

R. S. Krishnan
08.11.98

P. S. Krishnan

4.12.98

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P. S. Krishnan

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for Backward Classes

V. Advice of the Commission

11. The Commission considered and agreed in full with the above Finding of the Andhra Pradesh Bench and decided to tender the following Advice to the Central Government under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the Act:-

The Requests for Inclusion of "Jetty" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Andhra Pradesh should be rejected as it is not a socially backward.

12. On account of the unfortunate demise of one of the Members Shri Navtej Puadhi on 16.8.1998, 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.

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11.12.98

P. S. Krishna

4.12.98

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