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102

MEMBER-SECRETARY
NATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR BACKWARD CLASSES
NEW DELHI-110 066
28. 07. 1999

NCBC Advice No. M.P. 49/99

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 "Tanti" 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 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

Issued
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721 (358 + 363)

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

MADHYA PRADESH BENCH

Findings

Case : Request for inclusion of "Tanti" in the Central List of Backward Classes for the State of Madhya Pradesh.

PER SHRI SAHU AKSHAYA BHAI, MEMBER

I. Request :

1. This case arises out of the Request received from Shri P.C. Prasad Tanti and Shri M. Prasad for inclusion of 'Tanti' in the Central List of Backward Classes for the State of Madhya Pradesh.

II. Public Hearing

2. The two member Madhya Pradesh Bench of the commission consisting of Hon'ble members S/Shri Sahu Akshaya Bhai and U.P. Singh held a Public Hearing at Bhopal on 28.1.99 in respect of this request. At the Public Hearing the State Government was represented by Shri A.L. Naharia, Shri Neeti Raj Singh, and Shri S.P. Arzaria. Nobody on behalf of the caste/community was present during the Public Hearing.

III. Facts

3. "Tanti" is not included in the first-phase Central list of backward Classes for Madhya Pradesh prepared and notified in 1993 on the basis of the principle of commonality (i.e. inclusion of castes/communities in the Central List of Backward Classes, which were found included in both the

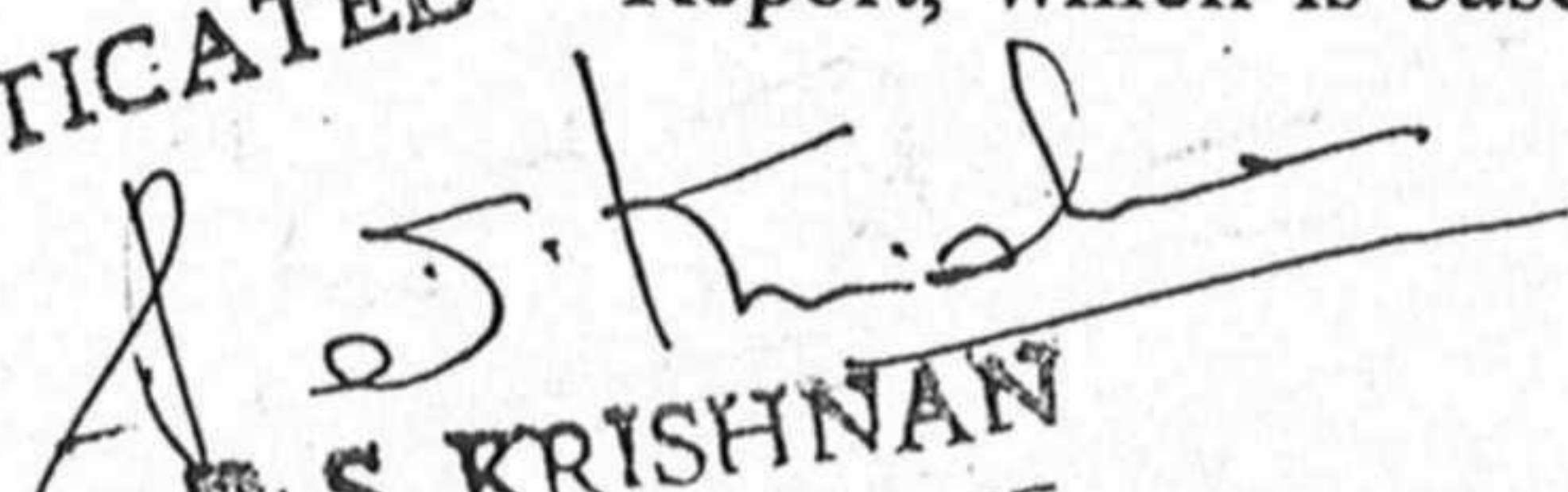
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Member Secretary
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for Backward Classes

Mandal Commission's List as well as in the State Government's List that existed at that time) because it was not included in Mandal List as well as in the State Government's List that existed at that time and therefore did not satisfy the criterion of commonality. Even now the "Tanti" caste/community is not included in the State Government's List of Backward Classes.

4. The caste/community has applied to the State Commission for inclusion of 'Tanti' in the State List of BCs. The request is under consideration of the State Commission.
5. The applicant in his letter, has mentioned that the numbers of 'Tanti' Caste have been residing in Madhya Pradesh for the last 20 years and the number of caste/community people is stated to be very small. Their birth place is Bihar and the caste/community's traditional occupation is Rajmistry (building construction). It is further mentioned in support of the request that their caste/community i.e. 'Tanti' is already included in the State List of Backward Classes of Bihar.
6. Neither the applicant nor any other person on behalf of the applicant appeared before the bench at the time of Public Hearing to produce evidence in support of his claim for inclusion of 'Tanti' in the Central List for Backward Classes. The application for inclusion of 'Tanti' caste/community in the Central List of OBC appeared to be solely on the ground that the caste/community is included in the OBC list of state of Bihar. At the time of Public Hearing, the representatives of the State Government/ Commission informed that the caste/community does not exist in the State of Madhya Pradesh. This statement is corroborated by the Mahajan Commission which was set up by the Madhya Pradesh government in 1980 to identify the backward classes in the State, in its Report, which is based on a survey of all the districts of the State, and

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representations received from the representatives of various castes/communities and public and on the basis of other documents, does not give any indications of its existence in the State of Madhya Pradesh. The applicant is not a native resident of Madhya Pradesh but has been residing there for the last 20 years.

7. R.V. Russell and Hiralal in "The Tribes and Castes of Central Provinces of India," (Vol. I, published by Asian Educational Services, New Delhi, Reprinted in 1993, P. 413) described the caste as "Tanti, Tatwa (from Sanskrit tantu, a fibre) – The great weaver caste of Bengal and Bihar. A few Tantis were enumerated in Raipur Districts in 1911."
8. H.H. Risley in his book "The Tribes and Castes of Bengal" (Vol-2 published by Firma Mukhopadhyay, Calcutta, Reprinted in 1981, P.295) described the caste as "Tanti, Tantrabaya, Tantubaya, Tatwa, Tantwa, the weaver caste of Bengal and Bihar, probably a functional group developed under the pressure of the natural demand for woven cloth."
9. It is clear from the above ethnographic account that the occupation of the 'Tanti' caste/community is weaving and not masonry work (Rajmistry) as stated by the applicant.

IV. Findings

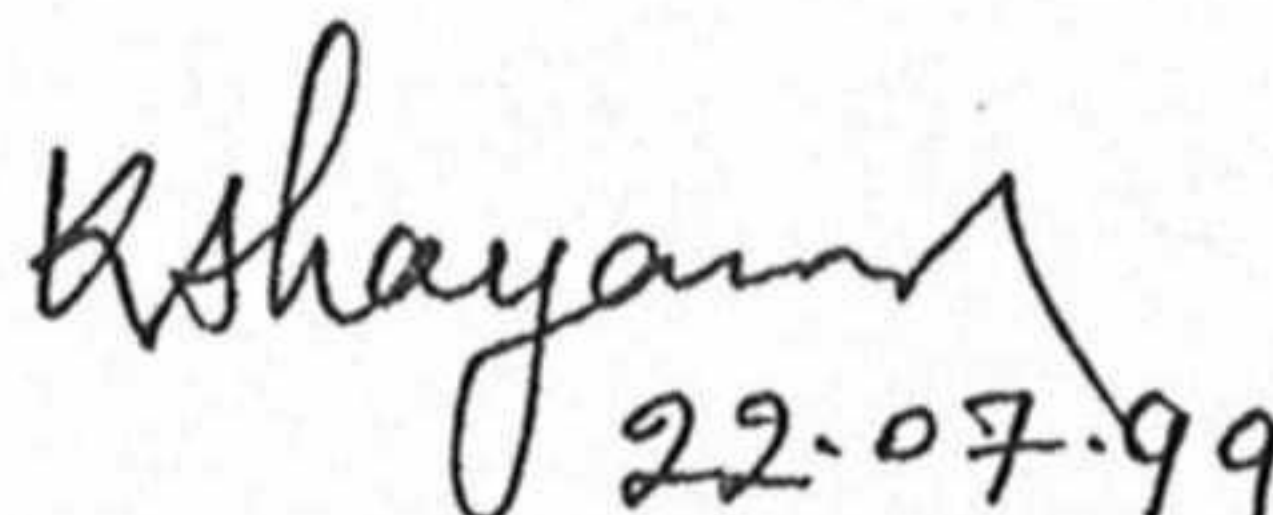
10. The statement of the applicant indicates that this caste/community belongs to the state of Bihar. Though the representatives of state commission/state Government have stated during the Public Hearing that the community does not exist in the state of Madhya Pradesh, it appears from the papers/documents furnished by the applicant that there are a few families of this community at Durg in Madhya Pradesh who have migrated in the recent

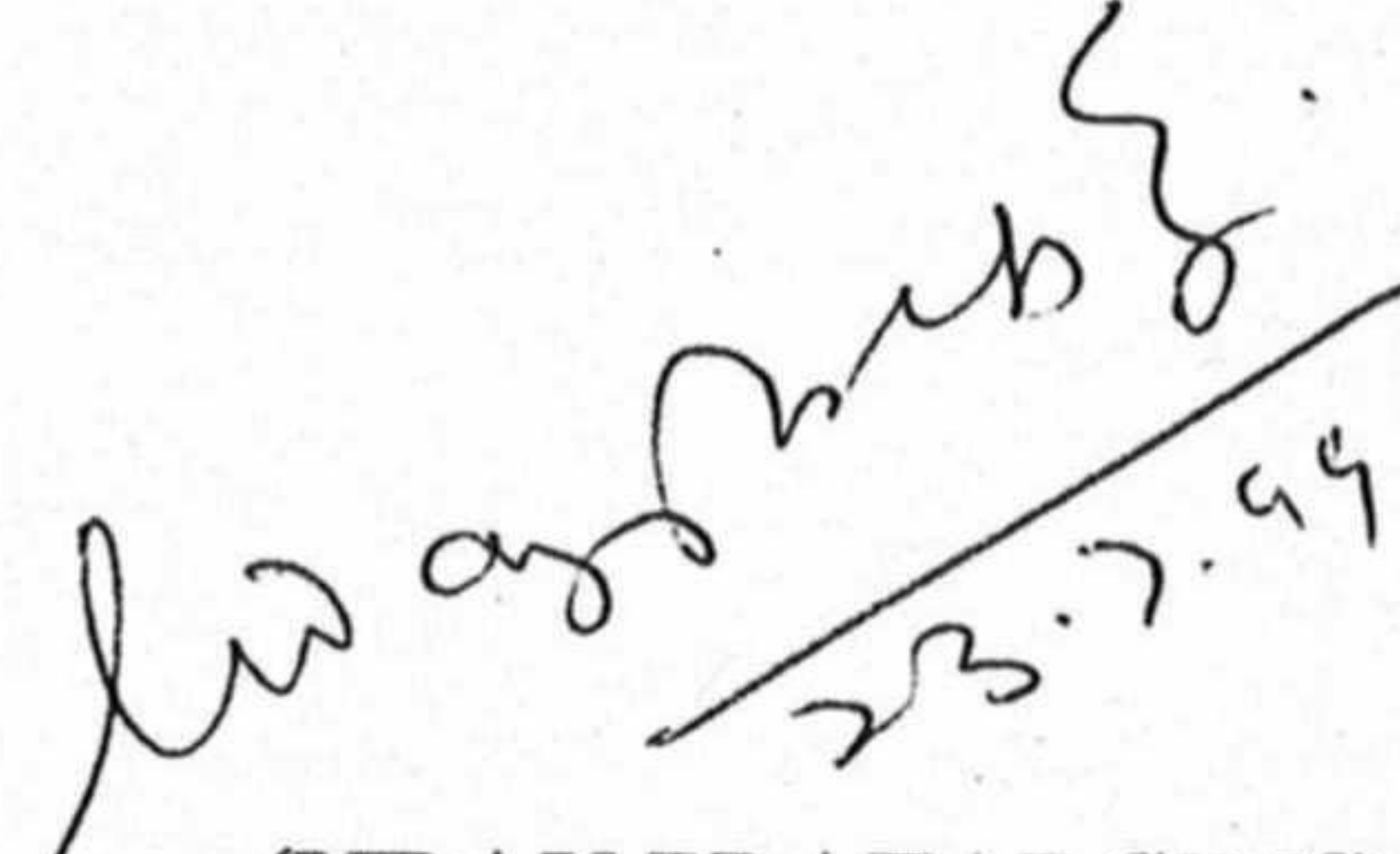
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past from Bihar to earn their livelihood. The traditional occupation of "Tanti", according to ethnographic literature is Weaving. 'Tanti' is described as the great weaver caste of Bengal and Bihar, probably a functional group developed under the pressure of the natural demand for woven cloth. We have also tendered our Advice in respect of "Tanti" for the State of Orissa vide Advice no. Orissa /44-47/99 dated 22.4.99, indicating "Weaving" as their traditional occupation. But the occupation of the caste under consideration is masonry. The two propositions i.e. the traditional occupation being that of weaving as attested to by the ethnographic literature and that of 'Rajmistry' as represented by the petitioner cannot be of the same caste having the common historical and social background. 'Tanti' caste of Bihar, as could be envied from the extracts of ethnographic literature in para 7 supra is also associated with the weaving tradition. Apparently the representationists are from a different segment and do not belong to 'Tanti' community of Bihar and the possibility of their belonging to some other caste/ sub- caste/community associated with masonry and adopting the name of 'Tanti' cannot be ruled out.

11. The applicant in spite of the repeated opportunities afforded to him to produce evidence, neither appeared before the Bench nor submitted any document to establish that the community is socially Backward in the milieu of their place of migration. In view of this, the Bench is of the view that the request for inclusion of 'Tanti' caste/community with the occupation of masonry in the Central list of Backward Classes for Madhya Pradesh should be rejected.


22.07.99
(SAHU AKSHAYA BHAI)


23.7.99
(UDAY PRATAP SINGH)

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Member Secretary
National Commission
for Backward Classes

V. Advice of the Commission

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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(1) of the NCBC Act 1993 for action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the Act.

The request for inclusion of 'Tanti' caste/community in the Central list of Backward Classes for Madhya Pradesh be rejected as this caste/community is not normally resident in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

Kshayam
22.07.99

for as per
23.7.99

~~Dr. 24~~
24.7.99

P. S. Krishnan

27.7.99

P. K. S. by aadham
28/7/99

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Central List of Backward Classes which were found included in the

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