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P. KRISHNAN
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राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग

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

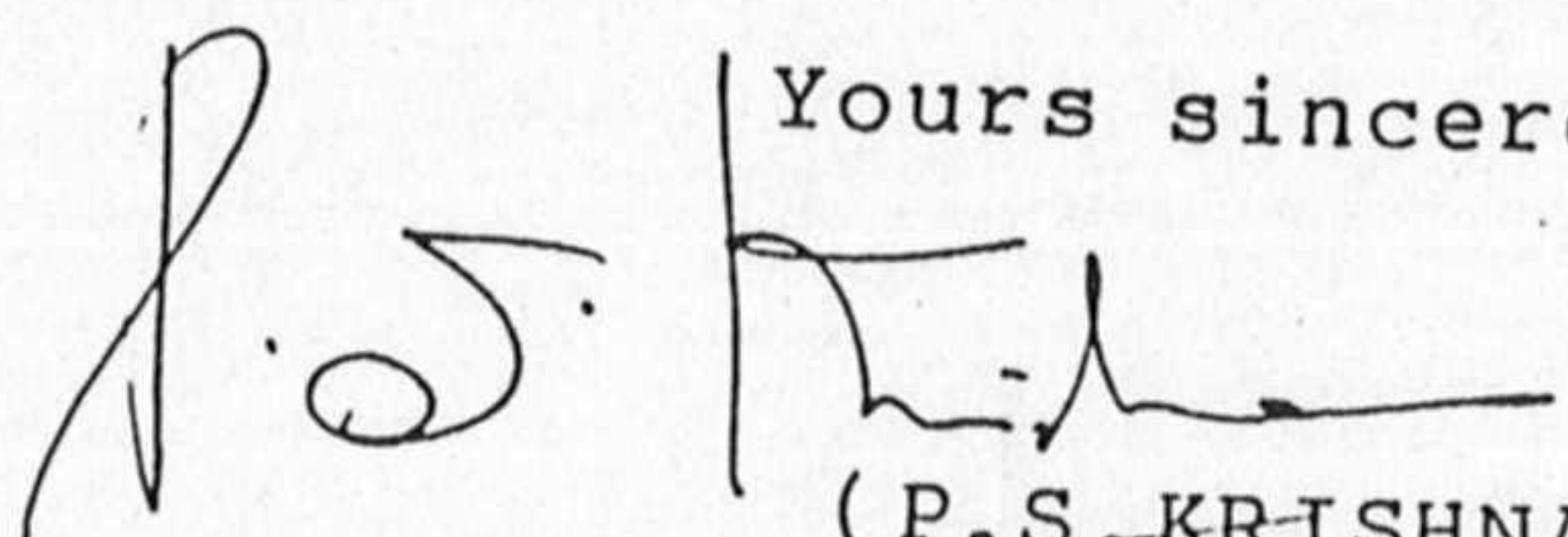
Member - Secretary
National Commission for Backward Classes
Government of India
Trikoot - 1, Bhikaiji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110 066

NCBC Advice No. U.P. 45, 46/1998

09. 12. 1998

Dear Shri Manavalan,

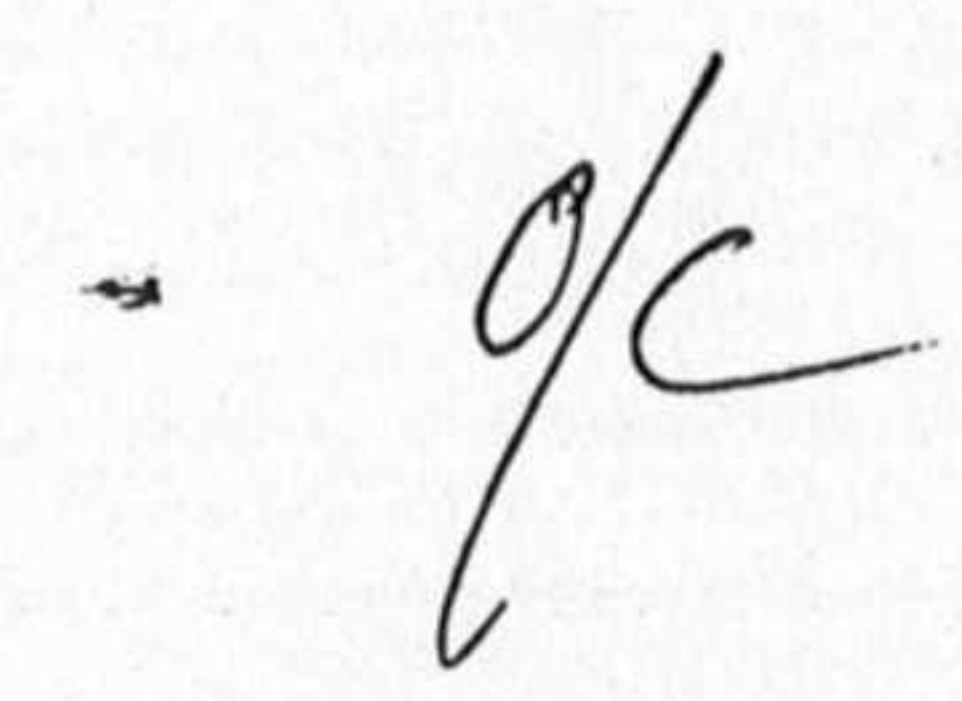
I am sending herewith the Advices of the National Commission for Backward Classes under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act for (1) Inclusion of "Raj(Memar)" caste/community, (2) Rejection of the Request for Inclusion of "Thabai, Rajgir, Shilpkar, Viswakarma" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Uttar 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


10/12/98



National Commission for Backward Classes

U.P. Bench

Findings

Case : Request for inclusion of Raj(Memar) and Thabai/Rajgir/Shilpkar/Viswakarma Castes/Communities in the Central List of Backward Classes for Uttar Pradesh.

Per Justice P.K. Shyamsunder, Chairperson

I Request

This case arises from the Requests received by the National commission for Backward Classes from Mt. Khalilun Nisha, Mohalla Saiyadwada (Uparkot) Post Bilgram, Distt Hardoi (U.P.) for inclusion of Raj(Memar) caste/community and Shri Krishna Kumar Shilpkar S/O Shri Manohar Lal, Mohalla Kajipura P.O. Bahraich Distt. Baharaich U.P. for inclusion of Thavai, Shilpkar, Rajgir, Vishwakarma castes in the Central List of Backward Classes for Uttar Pradesh.

AUTHENTICATED

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

II Public Hearing

2. The two member Bench of the Commission consisting of Hon'ble chairperson Justice P.K. Shyamsundar and Hon'ble Member Shri Sahu Akshaya Bhai held Public Hearing to examine the requests of these castes for inclusion in the Central List of Backward Classes for Uttar Pradesh on 21-04-1998 and 22-04-1998 at Lucknow. The State Govt. was represented by Shri R.V. Bhaskar, Principal Secretary & Shri H.S. Yadav, Special Secretary, Backward Classes Welfare Department. The Castes/Communities were represented by Mr. Saeed Ahmed, Distt Hardoi(U.P.), Shri Krishna Kumar Shilpkar and Shri manish Kumar.

III Facts

3. The 'Raj' caste/community is included in the Mandal List as:

"103. Raj"

4. This caste/community has not been included in the State List of Backward Classes.

5. In her application for inclusion of Raj (Memar) Thabai caste community in the Central List of backward classes the applicant Ms. Khalilun Nisha has stated that the said caste is socially and educationally backward and the caste has

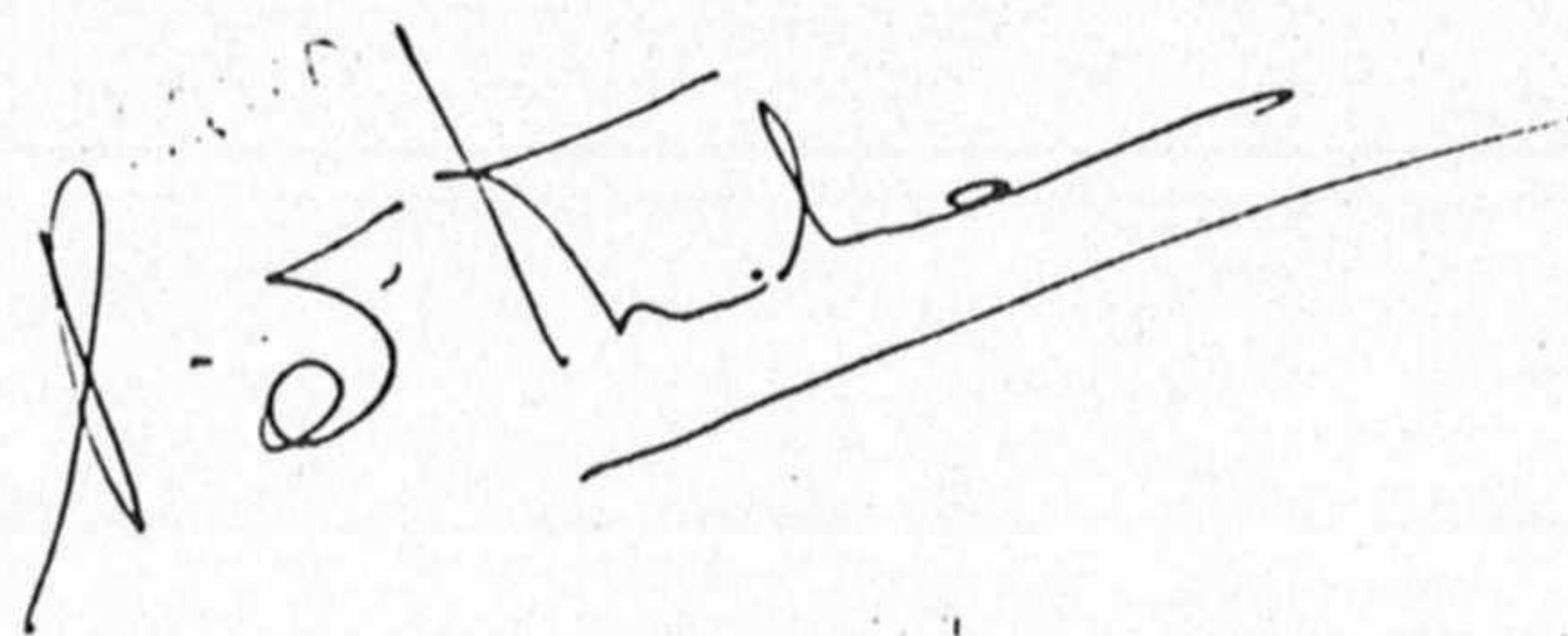
been included in the List of Backward Classes by Mandal Commission at entry No. 103. The NCBC's Questionnaire filled-up and submitted by the applicant states that the occupation of the members of the caste is non agricultural labour. The members of the caste are engaged in building construction (as Mistri) which involves manual labour. The literacy rate of the caste/community in the state is approximately 5%.

6. In his request for inclusion of Thabi/Shilpkar/Rajgir/Vishwakarma castes in the Central List of Backward Classes for U.P. Shri Krishna Kumar shilpkar has stated that the Literal meanings of the words are as:

Vishwakarma :	Thabai
Shilpi :	Shilpkar, Rajgir, Thabai
Rajgir :	One who constructs house, Thabai

Though different names are given to the caste at different places but the work done by them is the same i.e. construction of Houses/Building.

7. W. Crooke in his book 'The Tribes and castes of the North Western India' (cosmo publications, Delhi, Reprint 1974, Vol. IV pp. 208-209) has given the ethnographic account of the caste under the Title Raj, Raj Mistri. Thawai (in Persian Memar) as "The mason and bricklayer caste. The word Raj means either a "head workman" (Hindi Raja) or is a corruption of the Persian raz. Mistri is a corruption of the Portuguese mestre; Thawai of the Sanskrit sthapati. The caste is a purely occupational one, and is recruited from many of the lower castes, among whom chamars are very numerous."



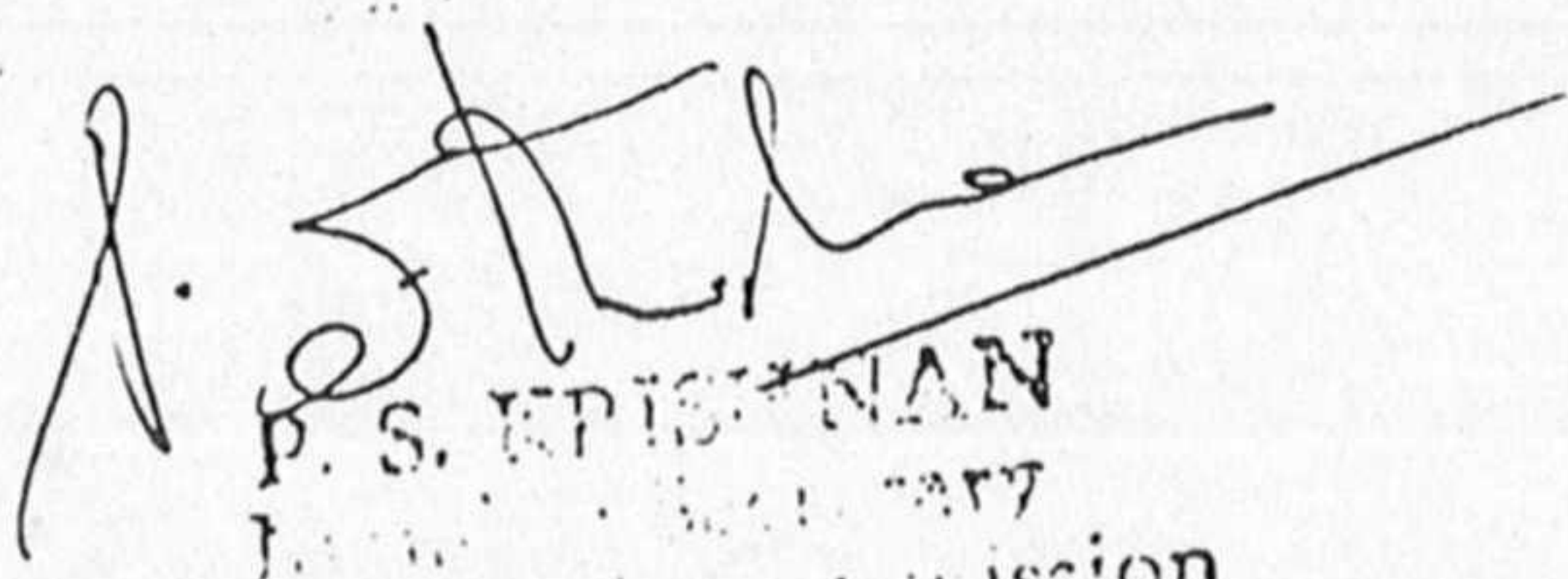
Crooke again under the head Thavai (ibid pp. 410-411) has written "Thavai- (Sanskrit sthapati, "a master-builder") -- The caste of masons and bricklayers. At the last census they appear to have been included under Raj (Q.V.) They are the Thavi of the Punjab, who is a mason and brick-layer in the hills, and claim to have been originally a Brahman, who was degraded because he took to working in stone. The caste is purely occupational and contains both Hindus and Muhamnadans; the latter say that their first ustad or teacher was Baba Ibrahim, or father Abraham. The Hindu branch say the same of viswakarma, the architect of the gods.-----"

8. Raj, Memar has been included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Delhi as:

"39. Memar, Raj"

9. During the Public Hearing Saeed Ahmed who appeared on behalf of Raj(Memar) caste/community stated that the occupation of the caste is mason. According to him this caste has been included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Delhi. He was also advised to apply to the U.P. State Commission for other Backward Classes in case they are interested in reservation in State services.

Shri Krishna Kumar Shilpkar who appeared on behalf of Thavai/Raj/Rajgir/Shilpkar/Vishwakarma castes/communities stated that he has also made a request to the Secretary, Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes, Government of India, New Delhi for inclusion of these castes in the list of Scheduled Castes for U.P. and he had withdrawn his request submitted to the National commission for Backward Classes for inclusion of Thavai, Rajgir, Shilpkar, Vishwakarma in the Central List of Backward Classes for U.P.


P. S. KRISHNAN
Secretary
National Commission
Backward Classes

IV Findings

10 From the foregoing facts the Bench finds that Raj, connotes a mason and is part of the bricklayer caste Raj Mistri, Thabai, memar all being synonyms of the caste. The caste is an occupational one and comprises of both Hindu and Mohammedan communities. We are aware that Memar is a persian word used for the members belonging to muslim community. Be that as it may the caste Raj(Memar) is socially backward.

The commission had received request for inclusion of this caste and its synonyms from both Hindu and Muslim communities but at the Public hearing the request made on behalf of the Hindu community having been withdrawn on the ground that Hindus had sought for inclusion in the List of Scheduled castes for U.P. which is said to be still pending with the Central Government, the request for consideration herein is thus confined to the members of the caste belonging to muslim community, and the demand is to include them in the Central List of Backward Classes for U.P. at entry No. 66 as:-

"66. Raj(Memar)

The Request for inclusion of Rajgir, Thawai, Shilpkar, Vishwakarma is rejected as withdrawn but the request for inclusion of the caste Raj(Memar) is accepted and recommends inclusion of Raj(Memar) in the Central List of Backward Classes for Uttar Pradesh.

Ashayan
06.11.98
(Sahu Akshaya Bhai)

P. K. Shyamsundar
4.12.98
(Justice P.K. Shyamsundar)

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H. C. Alexander
4-12-98

P. S. Thirumala
9.12.98

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~~T. S. SPENCER~~
Mission
for Laid and Classes