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सदस्य-सचिव
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

DO NCBC Advice No.U.P. 55, 56/98

31.12.98

Dear Shri Manavalan,

I am sending herewith the Advices of the National Commission for Backward Classes under Section 9(1) of the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993 for the Rejection of the Requests for Inclusion of

- (1) Charaj (Mahabrahman)
- (2) Mukeri

castes/communities/sub-castes 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.

2. With these, Advices on 500 (285 for Inclusion + 215 for Rejection) have been tendered to the Government by the Commission, after its reconstitution in 1997, of which 494 (279 for Inclusion + 215 for Rejection) are still pending with the Government for Notification.

Wishing you a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

P. S. Krishnan
(P.S. KRISHNAN)

Encl: As stated.

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

O/C

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

Uttar Pradesh Bench

Findings

Per Justice P.K. Shyamsundar, Chairperson

Case: Request for Inclusion of "Charaj (Mahabrahman)" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Uttar Pradesh.

I. Request

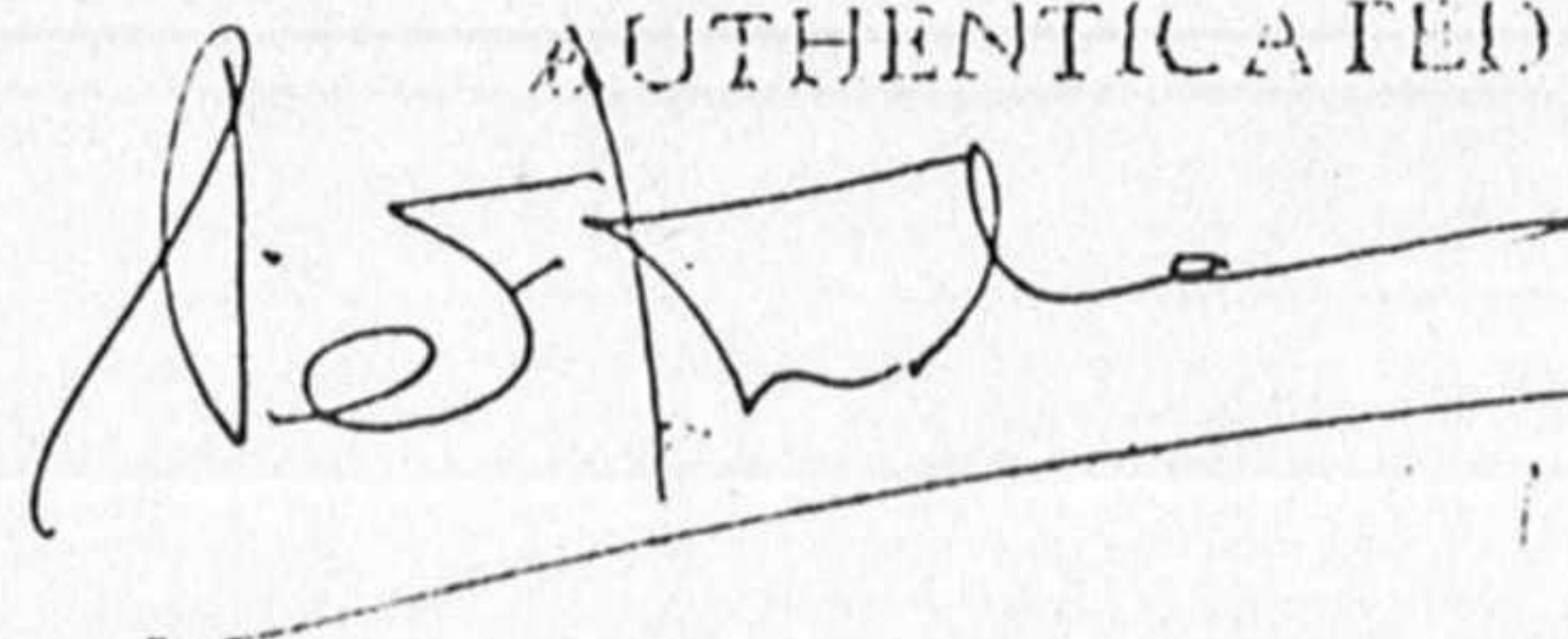
This case arises from the request received by this Commission from Shri Arvind Kumar, Mohalla Hiralal, Mawana, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh.

II. Public Hearing

2. The three-Member Bench of the Commission consisting of Shri Justice P.K. Shyamsundar, Hon'ble Chairperson, Shri Uday Pratap Singh and Shri Sahu Akshya Bhai, Hon'ble Members of NCBC held a Public Hearing on 27.10.98 at Lucknow. The State Government was represented by Shri Hiramani Singh Yadav, Special Secretary and Shri J.C. Pant, Director, Backward Classes Welfare Dept., Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow. Shri Ram Bahadur, Member-Secretary of State Backward Classes Commission was also present at the Public Hearing who gave valuable information. The community was represented by Shri Rajendra Bharadwaj, President, Shri Purushotham Bharadwaj, General Secretary and Shri Krishna Murari, Joint Secretary of Acharya Mahabrahman Sabha, Kankhal, Haridwar.

III. Facts

3. Charaj (Mahabrahman) is not included in any of the list for Backward Classes for Uttar Pradesh.

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4. At the Public Hearing, the representatives of the Charaj (Mahabrahman) caste/community stated that they are engaged in the priestly occupation known amongst Hindus as Prohit. When the Bench pointed out that their caste name itself indicates that they are Brahmans, they admitted that they are in fact a section of Brahmins. However, they maintained that since their occupation was of receiving funeral gifts they are considered lowly by the other Brahman communities. But whether they were looked down upon by society as a whole was not highlighted by the representatives.

5. In the ethnographic literature "the Tribes and Castes of the North-Western India" authored by W. Crooke, Charaj(Mahabrahman) is accounted under the title 'Mahabrahman' as follows:

"Mahabrahman – "Great Brahman", a term used in ridicule or contempt for the class of Brahmans who receive the funeral gifts....

....Of their origin there is no satisfactory account; but it may be reasonably suspected from their appearance and function that they are an occupational tribe of some menial origin who were introduced into Brahmanism. They, of course, claim to be real Brahmans, and the comparatively small number of them recorded at the last Census is almost certainly due to their repugnance to the use of the contemptuous term by which they are commonly known. They have simply recorded themselves as Brahmans without further distinction.....

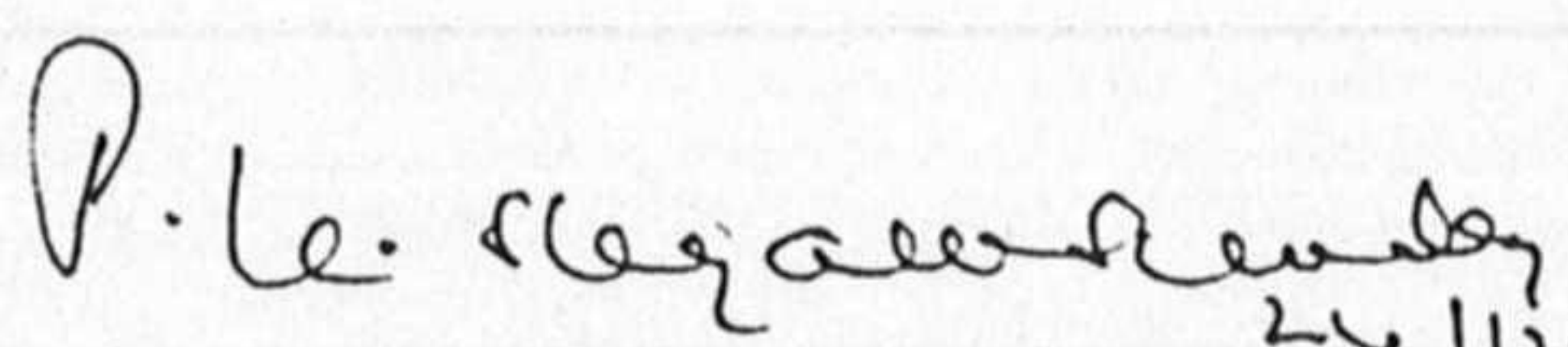
Every tribe of Brahmans, the Gaur, Kanaujiya, sarwariya, and so on, have each their own Mahapatras. They follow the ordinary Brahmanical gotras. ...All grades of people accept them as their funeral priests. ...

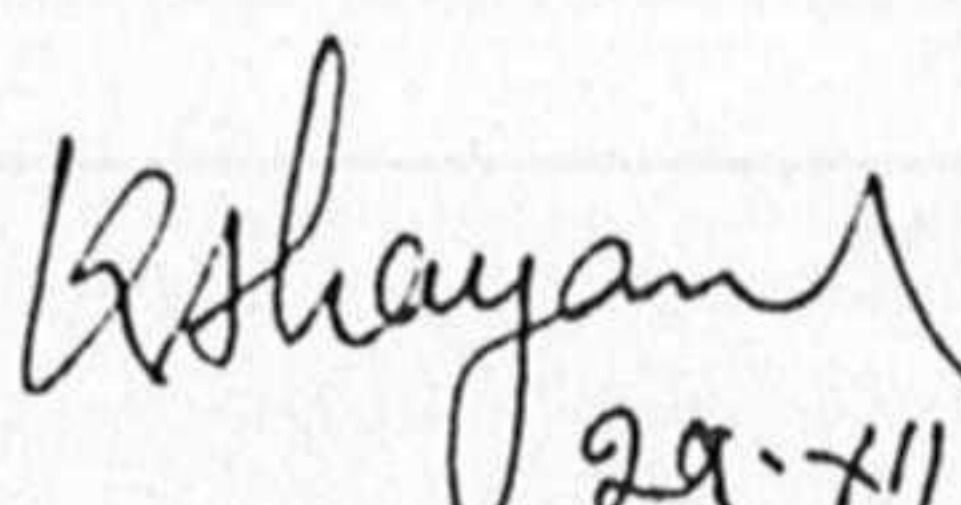
The special function of the Mahabrahman is the receiving of the funeral offerings, consisting of the clothes, jewelry, furniture, and other things belonging to the dead man.."

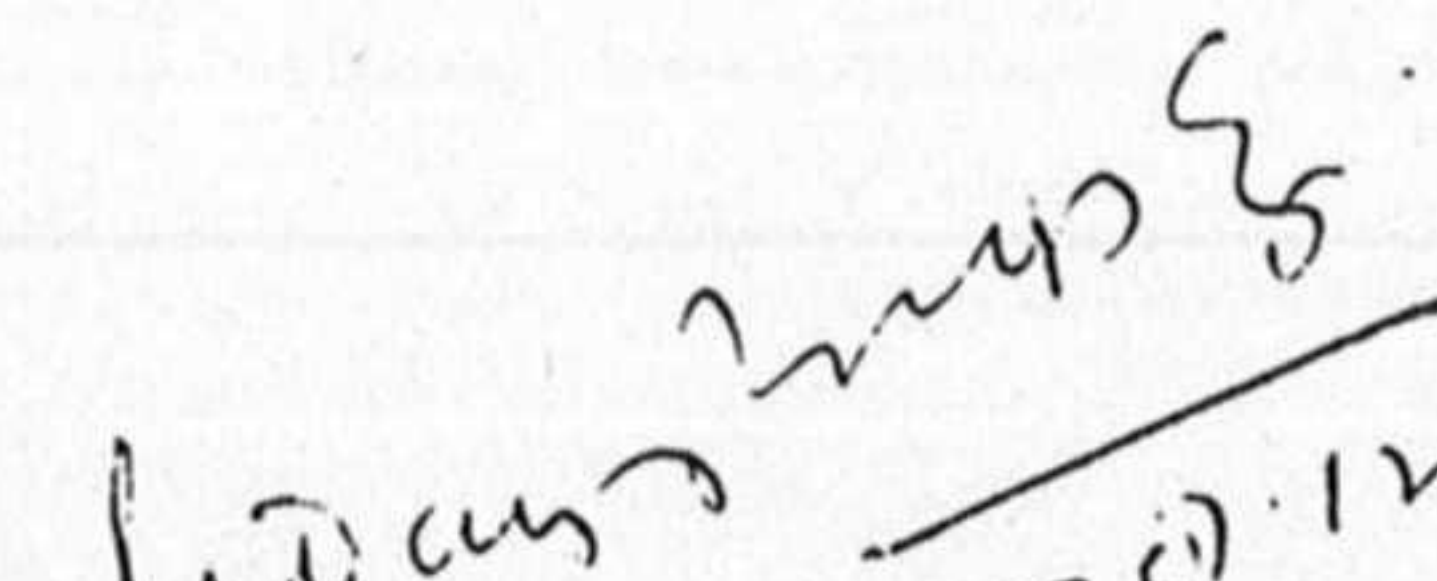
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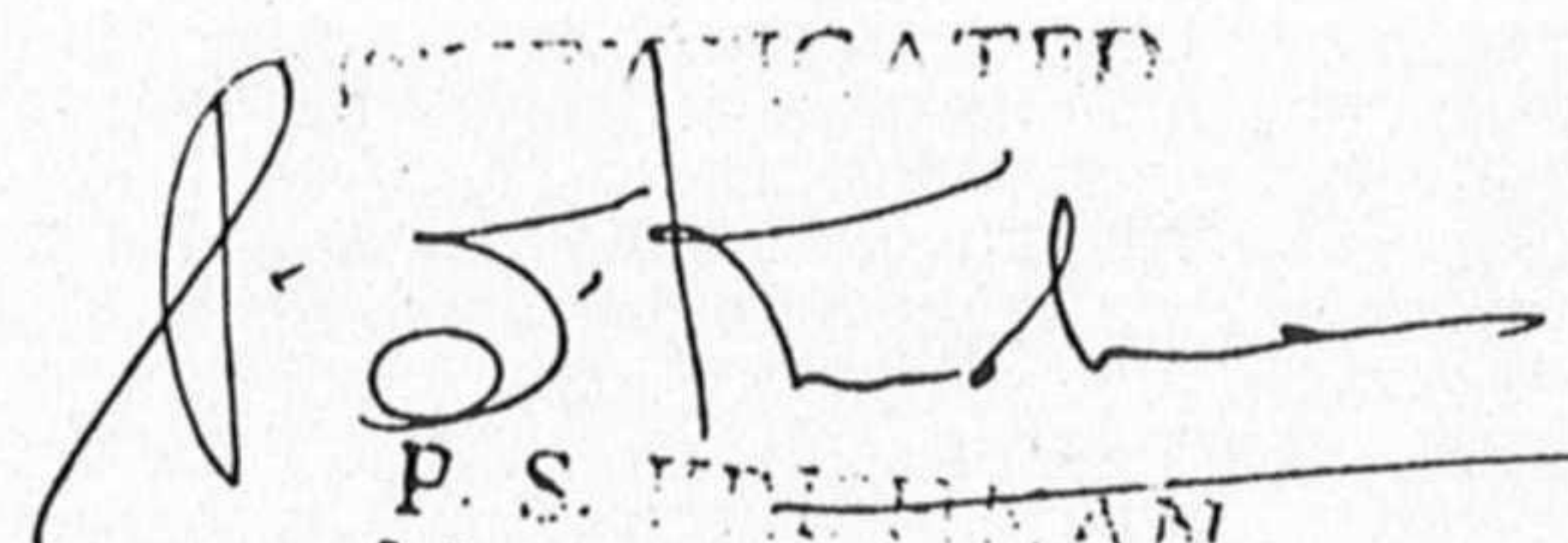
IV. Findings

6. From the foregoing material, it is evident that Charaj (Mahabrahman) caste is a section of Brahman community, engaged in the priestly occupation consisting in main receiving of funeral gifts offered by the Brahmans. At the public hearing, the representatives maintained that they are regarded low amongst the Brahmans due to their participation and accepting of funeral offerings including things belonging to the dead. While we do notice this practice of receiving funeral gifts is confined only to the Brahman community, whereas in the society as a whole, they enjoy a high social position as that of the Brahmans. Apart from the foregoing ethnographic account, the admission by the representatives that they are a section of Brahmans deters us from upholding their claim for the backward tag, because Brahmans who occupy the top-most position in the social order also enjoy a high social status and cannot therefore be considered backward in the Hindu Social Hierarchy. Hence, we find that the request for inclusion of Charaj (Mahabrahman) caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Uttar Pradesh is untenable and merits rejection since the caste is not socially backward. Govt. advised accordingly.


(Justice P.K. SHYAMSUNDAR)


29.11.98
(SAHU AKSHAYA BHAI)


20.12.90
(U.P. SINGH)


P. S. FREEMAN
Member
National Commission
for Backward Classes

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The Request for inclusion of “**Charaj (Mahabrahman)**” caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Uttar Pradesh be **rejected**.

P. G. Sverdrup
24/12/98

2/98
Liam, with
2.8.12.90

ATTENTION REQUIRED

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National Commission for Backward Classes

U.P. Bench

Findings

Case: *Request for inclusion of 'Mukeri' caste/community as a synonym of Kasai in the Central List of Backward Classes for U.P.*

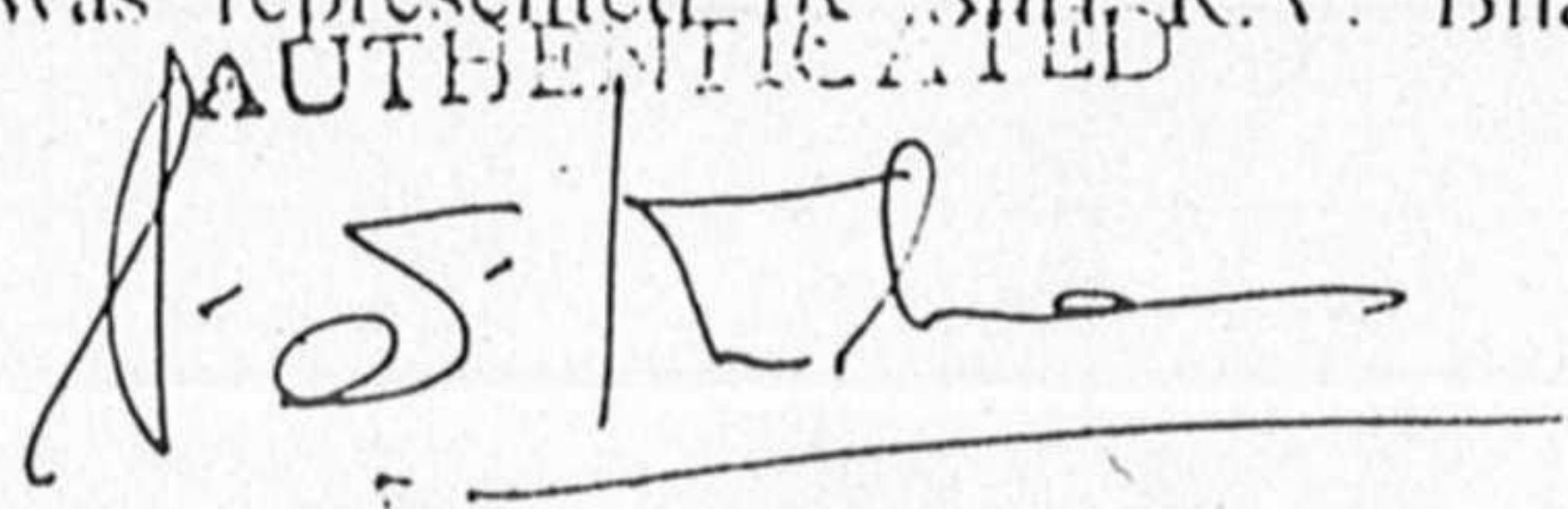
Per Justice P.K. Shyamsundar

I. Request

This case arises from the Request received in this Commission from All India Muslim Backward Classes Federation, 93, R.K. Puram, Sector-12, New Delhi. M.P. Branch Office, 1617 South T.T. Nagar, Bhopal for inclusion of Mukeri Caste/Community as a synonym of Kasai in the Central List of Backward Classes for U.P.

II. Public Hearing

2. The Three-Member Bench of the Commission consisting of Hon'ble Chairperson Justice P.K. Shyamsundar, Hon'ble Members Shri Sahu Akshya Bhai and Shri U.P. Singh held a Public Hearing to examine the request of this case for inclusion in the Central List of Backward Classes for U.P. on 28-10-98 at Lucknow. The State Govt. was represented by Shri R.V. Bhaskar, Principal

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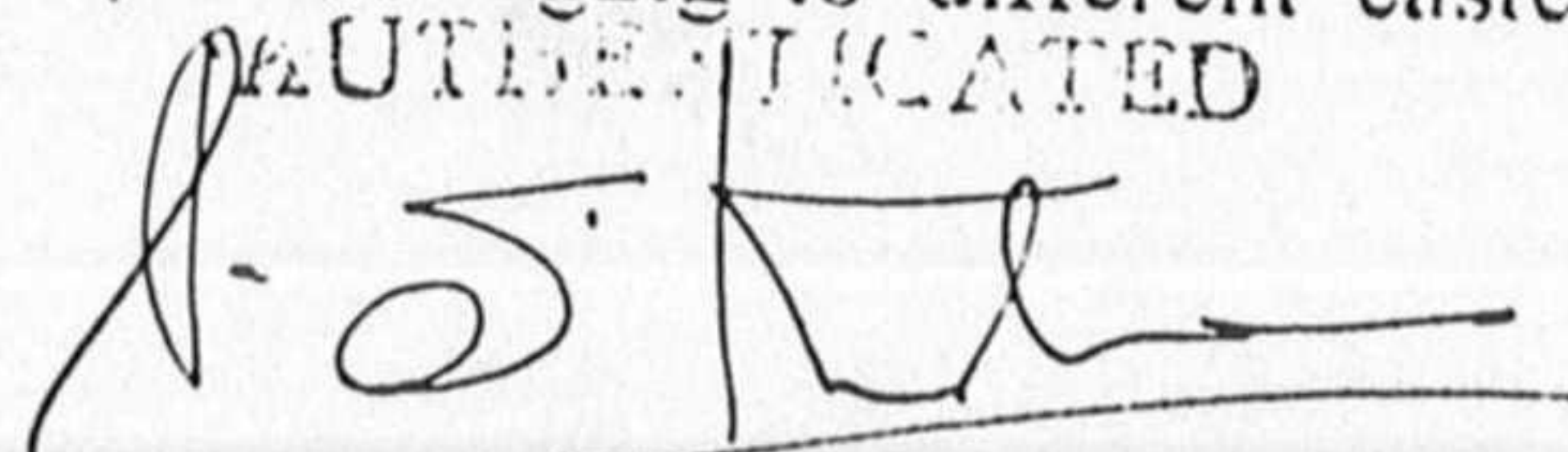
Secretary and Shri J.C. Pant, Director, Backward Classes Welfare Department. The State Commission was represented by Shri Ram Bahadur, Secretary.

III. Facts

3. The caste/community has not been included in the Mandal List.
4. The caste/community has been included in the State List as synonym of 'Banjara' caste/community at Sl. No. 31 as:

"31. Banjara, Ranki, Mukeri and Mukerani"

5. The Federation requested for inclusion of a number of castes/communities in the Central List of Backward Classes for U.P. and 'Mukeri' caste/community is one of them. According to the Federation the occupation of the members of the caste/community is selling meat, rearing goat and poltry farm and requested to include the same as synonym of 'Kasai'.
6. The Commission held Public Hearings to examine the request on 22-4-98 and 28-10-98 at Lucknow but both the times no representative on behalf of the Federation appeared before the Bench. On 28-10-98 Mr. Abdul Kalam Azad from Gorakhpur Mr. Muntaz Ahmad from Lucknow and Mr. Noorul Hasan Makrani, General Secretary, International Mukeri Tanzeem, H.O. - Bahraich appeared before the Bench and opposed the inclusion of 'Mukeri' caste/community as synonym of Kasai. They stated that in U.P. Mukeri is a sub-caste of Banjara and the members of this caste/community are engaged in sale-purchase of grains and requested that the caste/community should be included as synonym of Banjara as included in the State List. The representatives of the State Govt. and State Commission and also the people belonging to different castes/communities who

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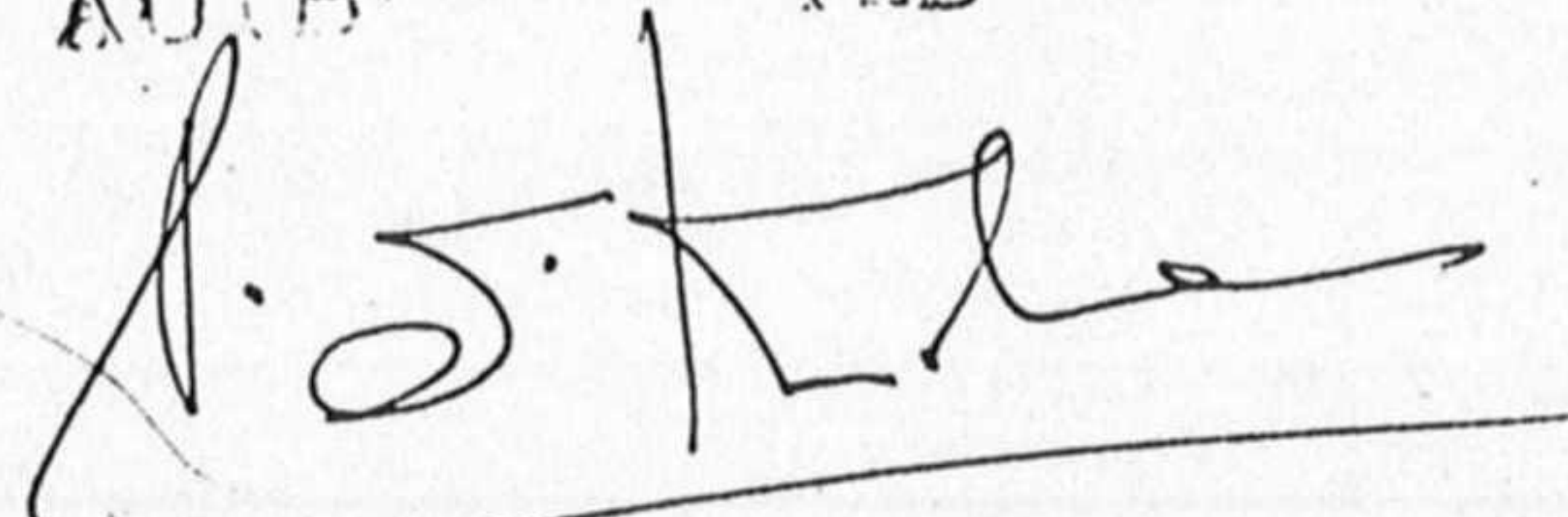
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Name
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were present at that time, supported the statement of the representatives of the caste/community that in Uttar Pradesh 'Mukeri' is a sub-caste of Banjara caste/community and not a synonym of 'Kasai'. The representatives of the caste/community submitted a new request for inclusion of the caste/community as a synonym of Banjara.

7. W. Crooke in his work 'The Tribes and castes of the North Western India' (Vol. I, Cosmo Publications, Delhi, reprint, 1975, originally published under the title 'The Tribes & castes of the North Western Province & Oudh') has a mention of Mukeri Banjara under the title 'Banjara' as: "Of them Sir H.M. Elliot says:-- The Mukeri Banjaras in the northern parganas of Bareilly assert that they derive their name from Mecca (Makka), which one of their Naiks, who had his camp (Tanda) in the vicinity, assisted Father Abraham in building. Leaving Mecca, they came and resided in jhajjar, where their illustrious name became corrupted from Makkai to Mukeri. Their fabulous history is not worth recording, but their names also betray a strange compound of tribes, Musalman and Hindu --- Aghwan, Mughal, Khokhara, Chauhan, Simli Chauhan ----- There are the same people are called mukeris in sholapur. There another explanation of the word is current. It is said to be derived from a word Mukerna, "to deny," which does not appear in the Hindustani dictionaries-----A third and perhaps, more probable explanation is, that it is a corruption of Makkeri, and means nothing more than a seller of maize (Makka)".

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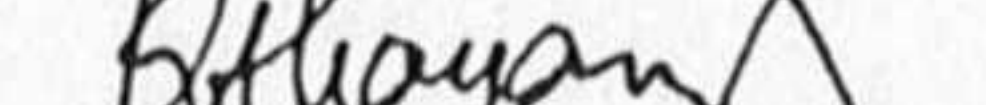
P. S. CHAUDHARY
Member, Ministry
of Education
for L. & T. States

IV. Findings

From the foregoing facts the Bench is of the view that 'Mukeri' caste/community is not a synonym of 'Kasai' in the State of Uttar Pradesh. The caste/Community has been included in the State List as a sub-caste/synonym of Banjara. The representatives of the caste/community at the Public Hearing requested the Bench not to include the caste/community as a synonym of 'Kasai' and submitted a fresh application for inclusion of the caste/community as sub-caste/synonym of Banjara. A new case has been registered on the basis of the request. Therefore this request for inclusion of Mukeri as a synonym of Kasai is to be rejected. Government advised accordingly.


 (Justice P.K. Shyamsundar)


 (U.P. Singh)


 (Sahu Akshaya Bhai)

1. *[Signature]*
 P. S. *[Signature]*
 R. *[Signature]*
 A. *[Signature]*
 S. *[Signature]*

V. Advice of the Commission

8. The Commission considered and agreed in full with the above findings of the U.P. 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:-

The request for inclusion of 'Mukeri' caste/community as a synonym of Kasai be rejected as the same is not a synonym of Kasai in the State.

P. S. Krishnan
24.12.98

R. S. Krishnan
29.11.98

M. S. Krishnan
20.12.98

P. S. Krishnan
30.12.98

On account of the unfortunate demise of one of the Members Shri Navtej Puadhi on 16-08-1998 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.

AUTHENTICATED

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