



पी.एस. कृष्णन्
P.S. KRISHNAN
TEL. : 6183190

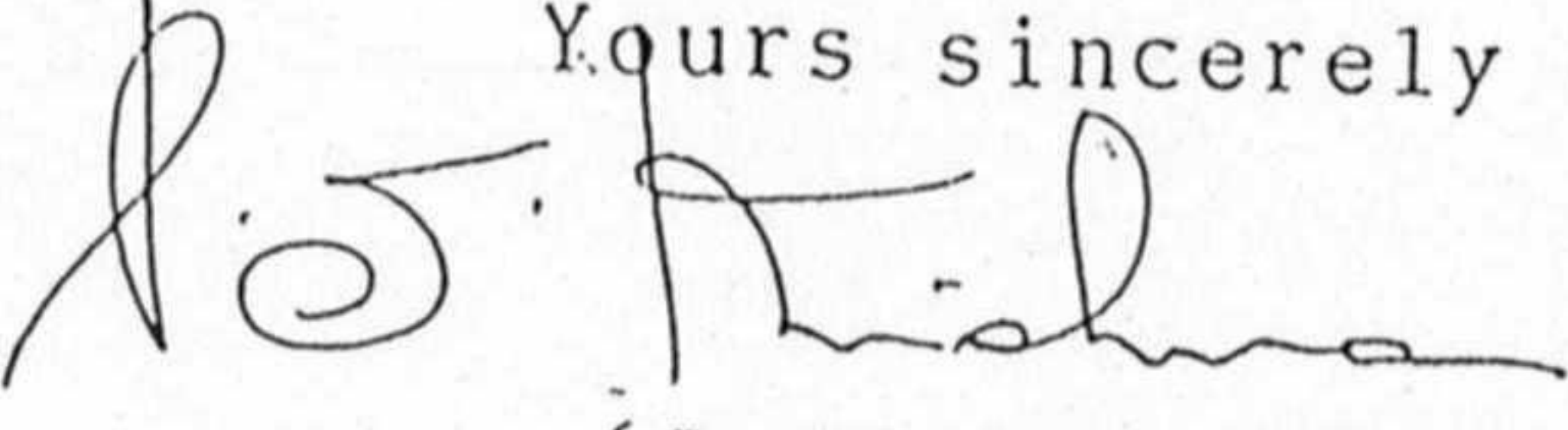
सदस्य-राचित
राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग
भारत सरकार
नई दिल्ली - 110 066
MEMBER-SECRETARY
NATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR BACKWARD CLASSES
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW DELHI - 110 066
28. 09. 1998

DO NCBC Advice No. 36 Pondicherry/98

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 Inclusion of "Sadhu Chetty, Telugu Chetty, Telugupatty Chetty, 24-Manai Telugu Chetty" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Pondicherry, 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
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Shastri Bhavan
NEW DELHI

28/9/98

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

PONDICHERRY BENCH

FINDINGS

CASE : REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF SADHU CHETTY, TELUGU CHETTY, 24-MANAI TELUGU CHETTY, TELUGUPATTY CHETTY CASTES/COMMUNITIES IN THE CENTRAL LIST OF BACKWARD CLASSES FOR PONDICHERRY.

PER SHRI SAHU AKSHAYA BHAI, MEMBER

I. REQUEST

These cases arise from the Requests received in this Commission from Shri S. Govindaraju, General Secretary, Pirpaduthapattor Nala Sangam, Pondicherry and from Shri S.A. Dhandapani, General Secretary, 24-Manai Telugu Chettiar's Thalamai Sangam, Chennai, for inclusion of Sadhu Chetty, 24-Manai Telugu Chetty, Telugu Chetty, Telugupatty Chetty in the Central List of Backward Classes for Pondicherry.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

2. A three Member Bench of the NCBC consisting of Hon'ble Members Shri Sahu Akshaya Bhai, Shri U.P. Singh and Shri Navtej Puadhi held a Public Hearing in respect of this request at Pondicherry on 30th April, 1998. At the Public Hearing the U.T. Administration was represented by Shri Felix Sequeira, Welfare Secretary, Shri A. Salvaraj, Deputy Director, Social Welfare, Shri V. Swaminathan, Research Officer, Social Welfare and other officials. The association was represented by Shri V. Govindarajan and others.

III. FACTS

3. The UT of Pondicherry had no list of Backward Classes till after the Supreme Court Judgement in the Mandal case delivered on 16th November, 1992. For this reason, the Expert Committee on Backward Classes could not, on the basis of the principle of commonality, recommend a Central List of Backward Classes for the Pondicherry, as it could do for 14 other States, which already had their respective lists of Backward Classes, and therefore, the Central Government also could not issue a Central List of Backward Classes for the U.T. of Pondicherry in 1993. The Govt. of U.T. of Pondicherry issued its list of Backward Classes by its Notification No. G.O.Ms. No.

AUTHENTICATED
15.12.1998
Member, Commission
National Commission for Backward Classes

20/94-Wel (SW)-II dated 6.7.1994. Thereafter, the Central Government vide Ministry of Welfare's resolution No. 12011/9/94-BCC dated 19.10.94 issued a Common(Central) List of Backward Classes for the U.T. of Pondicherry. The caste/community "Sadhu Chetty, Telugu Chetty, 24 Manai Telugu Chetty, Telugupatty Chetty" is not included in the U.T. list of Backward Classes as well as in the Mandal List of Backward Classes and therefore it is not included in the Central List prepared on the basis of the "Principle of Commonality".

4. During the Public Hearing the representative of the community stated that their community is called by different names, namely Sadhu Chetty, Telugu Chetty, Telugupatty Chetty, 24-Manai Telugu Chetty according to their qualities and behaviours. Their community originally belonged to Tamil Nadu and after its migration from Tamil Nadu mainly settled in places such as Katterikuppam Village in Pondicherry region, Mudaliarpet in Pondicherry Municipality Area, Pondicherry Town and its suburbs and Ambakarathur in Karaikal region. There are 212 families belonging to these four castes in Pondicherry with a population of 1064. The main occupation of the members of their community is "petty trade", i.e., trade by hawking goods about the town and villages, like Old Gunny Bag/Scrap Iron/Waste paper/Old Tyre business, which involves low income activities. Some of the members of their community are also engaged in coolie work, sack stitching, helpers in hotels and shops. On specific enquiry from the Bench, the representative of the community said that some of them are agricultural labourers and only few of them are marginal farmers with land holdings below one hectare. The women and children are also engaged in agriculture labour and street vendors of vegetables to support the family. Most of the families of these communities live in Kachha houses without any basic amenities. The literacy rate is very low. There is a heavy drop out of boys and girls from schools due to poverty and illiteracy of parents. During the past fifty years there was no MLA, MP or any political leader belonging to these castes in Pondicherry. The representation of this community in the State/Central Services and Public Sector undertakings is negligible. All these factors have contributed to deterioration of Social, Educational and Economic status of this community.

5. A statement furnished by the U.T. Administration shows Sadhu Chetty(including Telugu Chetty, Twenty four Manai Telugu Chetty) castes/communities are found in Pondicherry with 143 House holds, with a population of 723. During the Public Hearing, it was stated by the representatives of the U.T. Administration that the traditional occupation of these castes/communities is "gunny bag weaving" but due to competition in the market and economic situation, the members of these caste/communities have started petty business of old gunny bags, petty shops, hawkers of cloths, vessels, vegetables and some of them work as labourers, helpers in shops, hotels & workshops.

6. The State Level Committee for Backward Classes(First Report), Pondicherry has recommended Sadhu Chettiar/Irubathunangu Manai Telugu Chettiar for inclusion in the U.T. List of Backward Classes.

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P. S. KRISHNAIAH

7. The Report of the Tamil Nadu Second Backward Classes Commission, 1985, under the head "Sadhu Chetty(including Telugu Chetty, Telugupatty Chetty and 24 Manai Telugu Chetty) that their traditional occupation is manufacturing of gunny bags out of hemp. They were traders and hawkers in towns and villages. There are 24 Gothras and their community is known as 24 Manai Telugu Chetty.

8. According to "The People of India" Pondicherry(General Editor K.S. Singh, published on behalf of Anthropological survey of India by Affiliated East-West Press Pvt. Ltd., Madras, 1994), the "Sadhu Chetty" are a community of gunny-weavers distributed in Pondicherry and Karaikal. They are also called janappan, Telugupathi Chetty, Saluppan and Saluppa Chetty. They prefer to call themselves Iruvathinalumanai Chetty or Desayis or Desadhipathis". Edgar Thurston and Rangachari (castes and tribes of Southern India", Vol.II, Asian Educational Services, New Delhi, Madras, 1993, first published 1909) quote Mr. W. Francis as writing in the Madras Census Report, 1901 that the janappans "were originally a section of Balijas, but they have now developed into a distinct caste. They seem to have been called Janappan, because they manufactured gunny-bags of hemp(janappa) fibre. In Tamil they are called Saluppa Chetties, Saluppan being the Tamil form of Janappan..... They do not wear the sacred thread....." they also quote Mr. H.A. Stuart as writing in the Manual of the North Arcot district that Janappan is "the name of a caste, which engages in trade by hawking goods about the towns and villages. Originally they were merely manufactures of gunny-bags out of hemp(janappa, Crotalaria juncea), and so obtained their name. But they are now met with as Dasaris or religious beggars, sweetmeat-sellers, and hawkers of English cloths and other goods....."Thurston and Rangachari further writes as follows:- "The Saluppanns say that they have twenty-four gotras, which are divided into groups of sixteen and eight. Marriage is forbidden between members of the same group.....The Janappans of the Telugu country also say that they have only twenty-four gotras. Some of these are totemistic in character....."

9. Sadhu Chetty, Telugu Chetty, 24-Manai Telugu Chetty, Telugupatty Chetty though they bear the caste suffix 'Chetty' are apparently not 'trading caste', though they have got some petty selling/vending/hawking type of activities. They have already been included in the Central List of Backward Classes of Tamil Nadu. Sadhu Chetty is also already included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Karnataka. The NCBC has tendered its Advice to the Central Government for inclusion of '24-Manai Telugu Chetty, Telugupatty Chetty and a number of its synonyms with different spelling variants in the Central List of Backward Classes for Karnataka vide its letter NCBC Advice No. Karnataka. 52-55/97 dated 11.8.97 and for inclusion of Sadhu Chetties, 24 Manai Telugu Chetties in the Central List of Backward Classes for Kerala vide its letter NCBC Advice No. Kerala. 17-19/97, dated 15.12.97.

IV. FINDINGS

10. From the above evidence, it is the Finding of the Bench that Sadhu Chetty and its synonyms Telugu Chetty, Telugupatty Chetty and 24-Manai Telugu Chetty are

AUTHENTICATED

[Signature]

P. S. KRISHNAN
Member Secretary
National Commission
Backward Classes

Socially Backward and therefore, these should be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Pondicherry at Sl. No. 260 as under:-

"260. Sadhu Chetty, Telugu Chetty, Telugupatty Chetty, 24- Manai Telugu Chetty"

As one of the Member of the Bench, Shri Navtej Puadhi unfortunately passed away on 16.08.98, subsequent to the public hearing, the Findings are signed only by two Members, but the findings represent to conclusion jointly arrived at by the bench Members.

Ashayan
23.09.98
(SAHU AKSHAYA BHAI)

U.P. Singh
23.9.98
(U.P. SINGH)

V. ADVICE OF THE COMMISSION

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

"Sadhu Chetty, Telugu Chetty, Telugupatty Chetty, 24-Manai Telugu Chetty" be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Pondicherry at Sl. No. 260 as follows :-

"260. Sadhu Chetty, Telugu Chetty, Telugupatty Chetty, 24-Manai Telugu Chetty"

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.

Ashayan
23.09.98

U.P. Singh
23.9.98

P. S. Krishnan
23.9.98
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U.P. Singh
23.9.98

P. S. Krishnan
P. S. KRISHNAN
Member Secretary
National Commission
1998

ATTACHED