



प्रो.एस. कृष्णन

P.S. KRISHNAN

TEL.: 6886820-6183190

सदस्य सचिव
राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा आयोग
भारत सरकार
नई दिल्ली-110 066

MEMBER SECRETARY
NATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR BACKWARD CLASSES
NEW DELHI-110 066

NCBC Advice No. 10 Orissa/96

25.6.1996

Dear Shri Saxena,

I am sending herewith the unanimous Advice of the National Commission for Backward Classes under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act, 1993 in respect of "Saraka/Saraka Tanti" for including it in the Central List of Backward Classes for Orissa, for necessary action under Section 9(2) of the Act by the Central Government.

With Best wishes,

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

To

Shri K.B. Saxena
Secretary
Ministry of Welfare
Shastri Bhavan
NEW DELHI

Encl: As stated.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

ORISSA BENCH

Request:

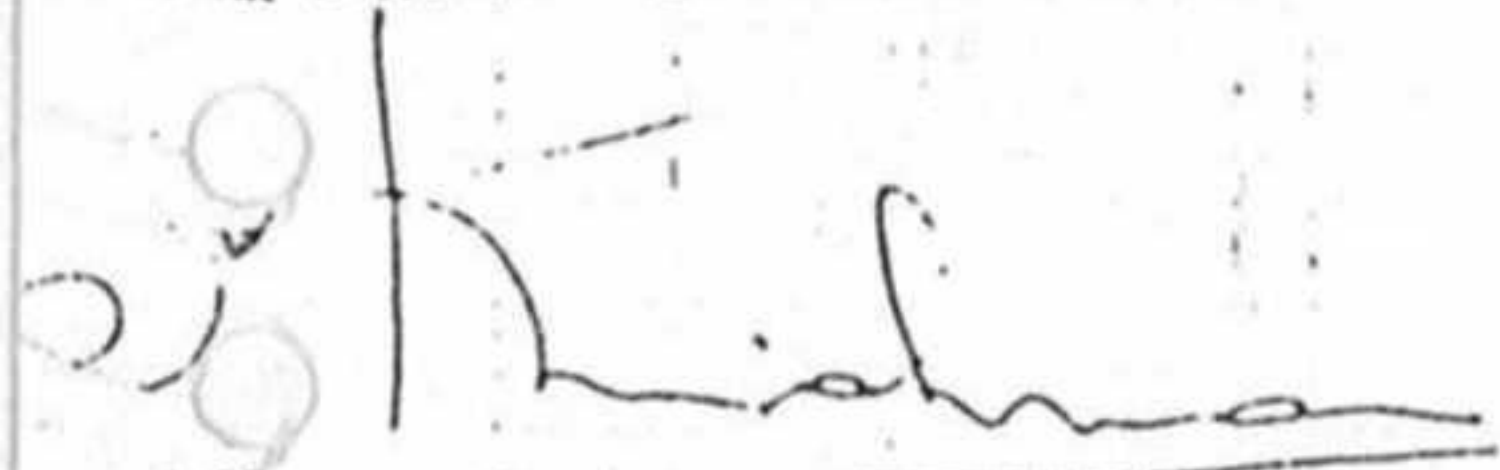
Inclusion of SARAKA/SARAKA TANTI caste/community in the Central OBC list for Orissa.

Case:

The Chairman Hon'ble Justice R.N.Prasad and Hon'ble Prof. D.L. Sheth who constitute the NCBC Bench for Orissa, held sittings at Bhubaneshwar for hearing in respect of some cases of Orissa on 3rd April, 1995 and on that occasion Shri Arakshita Debata, Secretary, Maniabandha Boudha Sangha, District Cuttack alongwith several other Members of the Saraka caste/community personally appeared before the Bench and made over a petition requesting for inclusion of the Saraka caste/community in the Central OBC list. He also filed photocopy of settlement Patta and some other documents in order to support the claim that the Saraka caste/community is a backward community in the State of Orissa. They submitted that members of this community constitute a minority following Buddhist religion.

The Saraka caste was not included in the State list of Orissa which was notified on the basis of Justice N.K.Das Commission Report in 1993. Consequently it did not also find place in the Central OBC list for Orissa which was notified in the Gazette of India dated 20th October, 1994. In view of this the members of this community who appeared before the Bench on the 3rd of April, 1995 were advised to take steps first for getting enlisted in the State OBC list for Orissa and thereafter to approach the N.C.B.C for enlistment in the Central OBC list. However in the meantime they were asked to send the filled-up

UNAUTHENTICATED



P. S. PRASAD

Chairman
National Commission
for Backward Classes

Public
Hearing &
Evidence:

Questionnaire to the NCBC and this has been done. The Part-I of the Questionnaire filled-up by the State Government has also been received.

The Orissa Bench consisting of Hon'ble Justice R.N. Prasad, Chairman and Hon'ble Prof. D.L.Sheth, Member had sittings for hearing on 4th January, 1996 at Bhubaneshwar and 5th January, 1996 at Dhenkenal. The representatives of the community appeared before the Bench at Bhubaneshwar on the 4th January, 1996 and also at Dhenkenal on 5th January, 1996. The State Govt of Orissa was represented by its Director dealing with other Backward Classes Mr. Choudhari.

At the time of hearing the Members of the community produced before the Bench Notification No.25958/W dated 9th October, 1995 of the Govt of Orissa which shows that the State Govt after accepting the recommendation of the Orissa State Commission for Backward Classes has included Saraka & Saraka Tanti at Sl.No.50 of the Orissa State OBC list. It was submitted before the Bench that the State Commission after detailed and extensive inquiry recommended for the inclusion of the SARAKA community in the State OBC list and it would only be just and proper that the community with its synonym Saraka Tanti is also included in the Central OBC list.

Part-I of the Questionnaire filled-up by the State Govt supplies only information of general nature relating to total population of the State, overall literacy rate, employment etc. It also provide some specific information about SC & ST in the State of Orissa but no specific information has been given in respect of any OBC community including the Saraka caste and its synonym. The State Govt representatives present at the time of hearing submitted that since there has been no castewise survey or census, the State Govt was not in a

position to supply any specific information about any OBC caste/community.. Part-II of the Questionnaire has been filled up by Shri Arakshita Debata aforesaid and it gives relevant information about the Saraka caste. According to it the population of the SARAKA caste/community in the State of Orissa is little more than 10,000 and the Members of the community are concentrated in the Districts of Cuttack, Balassore, Khurda and Puri and all these persons are Buddhist by religion. It has also been stated therein that Members of this community are engaged in their traditional and hereditary occupation of weaving cloth with age old implements and as such the work is based on manual labour. It has also been stated that even women and children have to participate in the weaving work in order to enable the family earn its livelihood. The Questionnaire also States that about 95% members of this community are still engaged in their traditional work of weaving and dyeing cloth and that the community has not been able so far to have any representative in the Assembly. It was pointed out during the hearing that the Saraka is an old Buddhist community of Orissa, engaged in weaving. The name Saraka is derived from the term Sravaka, meaning those who heard preachings of Lord Buddha and became Buddhist. At the time of hearing it was also submitted that there are only a few educated persons amongst the community members. The Questionnaire mentions that on the basis of the figures of 1994, there are only 17 graduates and out of Matriculate only 10 are female matriculates. It was also stated that most of the families reside in Kachcha houses which is indicative of their low economic level. It was pointed out that so far information is available there are not Class-I or Class-2 officers nor any Doctor, Lawyer or Engineer amongst the Saraka/Saraka Tanti caste. It was also submitted at the time of hearing that the SARAKA TANTI is just synonym of

SARAKA and all the members are doing the same work of weaving.

The representatives who appeared at the time of hearing produced before the Bench, certificates from the Sarpancha of several Gram Panchayats and officers of some Weaving Cooperative Societies which show that the members of the SARAKA community are engaged in their traditional occupation of weaving and are members of Weavers Cooperative Societies. Members of other communities who were present at the time of hearing supported the claim of the SARAKA/SARAKA TANTI caste being socially and educationally a very backward community engaged in the hereditary occupation of weaving and that SARAKA and SARAKA TANTI are just synonyms of each other and on that account have been included by the State Govt at Sl. No. 50 of the Orissa State OBC list.

Finding:

On the basis of the materials on record the Bench on being satisfied gives its finding that the SARAKA AND SARAKA TANTI are synonym of each other and that the members of these castes are socially, educationally and economically very backward and their representation in the services is grossly inadequate. The Bench therefore recommends that SARAKA and SARAKA TANTI be included in the Central OBC list for Orissa.

(PROF. D.L.SHETH)

Member

(JUSTICE R.N.PRASAD)

Chairman

AUTHENTICATED

P. S. JEDHAN

Member Secretary

State Commission

for Backward Classes

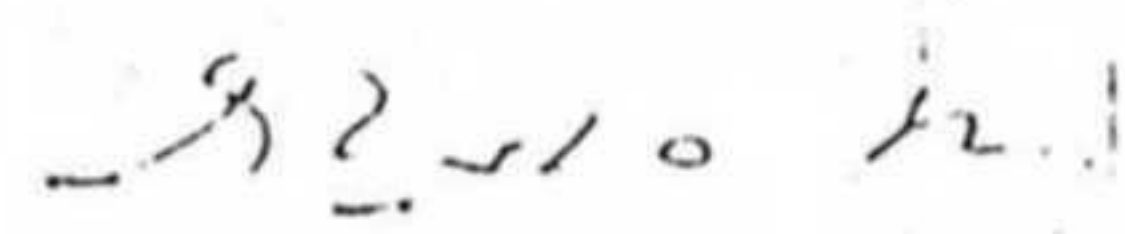
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

Advice No. ORISSA/10/96

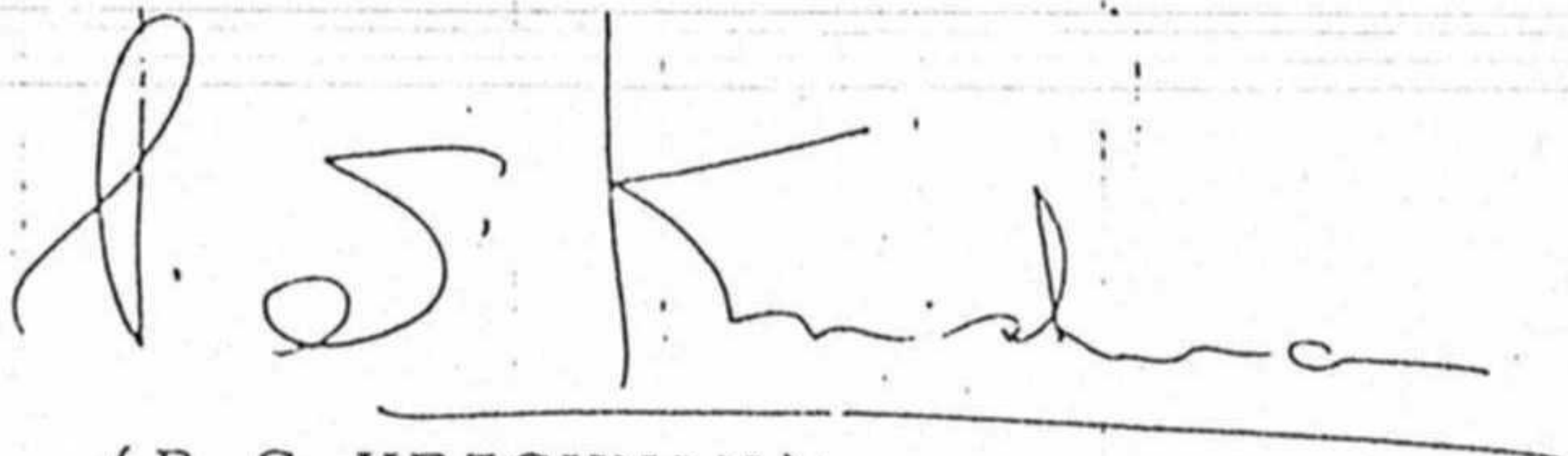
The Commission considered the findings of the Orissa Bench in respect of the SARAKA/SARAKA TANTI caste/community and being in full agreement tenders the following ADVICE to the Govt of India in terms of Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act 1993:-

The Caste SARAKA/SARAKA TANTI be added in the Central list of Backward Classes for Orissa as given below:

"SARAKA/SARAKA TANTI"


(PROF. D.L. SHETHI)
Member


(DR. D.S. YADAV)
Member


(P.S. KRISHNAN)
Member


(DR. R. PRASANNAN)
Member


(JUSTICE R.N. PRASAD)
Chairman

25/6/96

25/6/96

25/6/96

AUTHENTICATED

