



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

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

DO NCBC Advice No. 37 Pondicherry/98

28. 09. 1998

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 Rejection of the Request for Inclusion of "Reddy(Ganjam)" caste/community 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

6/10/98

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

PONDICHERRY BENCH

FINDINGS

CASE : REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF REDDY(GANJAM) CASTE/COMMUNITY IN THE CENTRAL LIST OF BACKWARD CLASSES FOR PONDICHERRY.

PER SHRI SAHU AKSHAYA BHAI, MEMBER

I. REQUEST

This case arises from the Request received in this Commission from Shri M.V. Vaithilingam, Advocate, Vice President, Pondicherry State Reddi Nala Sangam, Sithankudisai, Pondicherry for inclusion of Reddy(Ganjam) in the Central List of Backward Classes of Pondicherry.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

2. A Two Member Bench of the NCBC consisting of Hon'ble Members S/Shri Sahu Akshaya Bhai and U.P. Singh held a Public Hearing in respect of this request at Pondicherry on 27th August, 1998. At the Public Hearing the State Government was represented by Shri Felix Sequeria, Welfare Secretary, Shri Salvraj, Dy. Director, Social Welfare, Shri V. Swaminathan, Research Officer, Social Welfare and other officials. The association was represented by Shri M.V. Vaithilingam, Vice President, Pondicherry State Reddi Nala Sangam and others.

III. FACTS

3. The U.T. 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 U.T. of Pondicherry as it could do for 14 other States, which already had their respective lists of Backward Classes, and therefore, the Central Govt. 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. 20/94-Wel(SW)-II dated 6.7.1994. Thereafter, the Central Government vide Ministry of Welfare's Resolution No.

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For Backward Classes

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 "Reddy(Ganjam)" 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 also not included in the Central List prepared on the basis of the "Principle of Commonality".

4. The NCBC's Questionnaire inadequately filled up and furnished by the Pondicherry State Reddy Nala Sangam states that agriculture is their main occupation on which the members of their caste/community depend for their livelihood. Sixty percent of their community are landless manual labourers (both agricultural and non-agricultural). The total number of matriculates of the community is 15%. Approximately 54% of the people of this community are living in Katcha houses.

5. During the Public Hearing the representatives of the caste/community stated that the members of their community had migrated from Orissa and Andhra Pradesh to the erstwhile Madras presidency which then included parts of the present Andhra Pradesh & Orissa and few of them settled in Pondicherry. Reddy(Ganjam) is a rural community with a total population of about 500. Their community is spread over in Pondicherry region. It is an agricultural community but due to hardships in dry land farming, climatic condition, high cost of farming etc, they have taken to agricultural labour. Some of them earn their livelihood, by petty trades and labour(both agricultural and non-agricultural). Most of the families of this community live in Katcha houses without any basic amenities. The literacy rate is very low. The employment of this community in the State, Central Services and Public Sector undertakings is negligible. None from this community has been recruited to state of central civil services. There has been no representative in state legislature or in parliament. None from this community ever occupied high position in Govt. Service, Public Sector Undertakings and Local Bodies. All these factors contributed to deterioration of Social, Educational and Economic status of this community. Further, submitted that their community is a backward community and added that Reddy and its sub-castes have been included in the Backward Class List of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Karnataka and Kerala. When the Bench pointed out the non-inclusion of "Reddy(Ganjam)" in the Backward Class List of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, the representatives of the community only stated that they are Socially Backward and even after settling in Pondicherry for so many years, they have not progressed socially, economically and educationally, but they did not say anything about the non-inclusion of "Reddy(Ganjam)" in the Backward Classes list of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa.

6. The Report of the Tamil Nadu Second Backward Classes Commission (Ambasankar) states that the entry "Reddy(Ganjam)" represents the Reddis of Ganjam region which now forms part of Orissa state. This is one of the sections of 'Kapu' which is a predominant class in Andhra Pradesh. They are agriculturists. The Report further states "the Reddy community representatives made representation to the First Tamil Nadu Backward Classes Commission for granting concessions to all the Reddis. According to the First Backward Classes Commission the Reddis did not appeared to be backward. They also observed that as there were no Ganjam Reddi, it was redundant to

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Most Reddiars own land. Landless Reddiars are a rarity. They cultivate groundnut, sugarcane etc..landed Reddiars do not usually engage themselves in other economic activities, viz. Subsidiary industries.

The Reddiar generally distance themselves from the village panchayat. Although they freely contribute, in cash and kind, to conduct the village festivals, they do not actively participate in running the village administration. It 'is not that the Reddiar, as a community, are apolitical. Many Reddiars are members of Assemblies or Parliament. They have contributed greatly to social, economic and political life in Pondicherry.....

There is a Reddy Jansangham in the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and the Union Territory. The Sangam runs a finance corporation in Pondicherry, called the Uathapuri Semanna Benefit Society. The society lends money at moderate interest rates to members of the community.

There have been obvious changes in the Reddiars economic activities after independence. The majority of the Reddiar are affluent. Almost all of them are committed to agriculture, although they may have diversified into other economic activities too.

10. The statement of the representatives of the community that "Reddy/Reddy(Ganjam) and its sub-castes have been included in the Backward Class list of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala" is in the most part incorrect and misleading and only partly correct, because "Reddy" is not found included in the State, Mandal and Central Lists of Backward Classes for Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. In Karnataka, "Reddy" is included in the State List of BCs under Vokkaliga, but it is not included in the Mandal Commission's List of Backward Classes for Karnataka and the Central List of Backward Classes for Karnataka. It is found included also in the State and Mandal Lists of BCs for Kerala. In respect of State List of Kerala it is included only in respect of areas excluding the Malabar region, which before the reorganisation of the State was part of the erstwhile Madras Presidency, therefore, it is also included in the Central List of Backward Classes through the process of common-listing in respect of the areas of Kerala excluding Malabar region. Reddy(Ganjam)" is found included in the State List of Tamil Nadu. The inclusion of "Reddy(Ganjam)" in the Tamil Nadu State List of BCs and Kerala Govt's List of BCs for Malabar area are puzzling to the Bench in view of socio-historical background of this community as detailed in the ethnographic account of Thurston and Rangachari, and also in view 'of the fact that in Tamil Nadu the first Backward Classes Commission set up by the State Govt. did not find this community to be backward, as seen from its observations in its Report under the head "Reddi(Ganjam)", as follows:-

"Reddi (Ganjam)" : Item No. 120 in the list of Backward Classes in the Notification of the Department of Backward Classes.

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

Item No. 118 in the list of Backward Classes of the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission.

There is no enumeration either of Reddis or of Ganjam Reddis in 1921 Census. Obviously they have been included in the generic caste name 'Kapu'. In the Tamil districts; 'Kapu' are found almost everywhere, though they are concentrated in a few districts more than in others. The Commission received only one written representation from the Kallikudi Reddi Mahajana Sangam, Tirupparangundram, Madurai. Even that representation did not contain proper replies to the questionnaire. It described obtaining caste certificates and ended up with the request that the Reddi community people residing in Madurai, Ramanathapuram and Tirunelveli districts should be declared by the Government as belonging to Reddi(Ganjam) community so that they become automatically entitled to scholarships without production of any proof. This request was made to the Government also in 1969.

Reddis of Ganjam district were included in the list of Backward Classes in G.O. Ms. No. 333, Law and Education, dt. 10.3.1925. The circumstances that led to the issue of this order make it very clear that it was intended to benefit only a particular class of Reddis residing in Ganjam, which was then a part of the Composite Madras Presidency and not to Reddis in any other districts, either in Tamil parts of the State or otherwise. It must be observed that even in 1921 as was stated above, there were Reddis in Tamil districts and there was no specific order of Government extending this concession to all the Reddis or to such of those Reddis as might have migrated from Ganjam. We were not able to trace any records about subsequent vicissitude of this entry. In there order No. Ms. 321, I.L.C., dt. 5.10.57, Government laid down that the students belong to Reddi communities of 'Ganjam' and 'Vishakapatnam' districts shall not be granted fresh scholarships from the Harijan Welfare Fund. Representations were subsequently received praying for cancellation of this order. The Kalelekar's Commission mentioned 'Ganjam Reddis'(Ramanathapuram, Maduria and Tirunelveli districts) in the list of Other Backward classes, and on the basis of this, Government in G.O. Ms. No. 1247, Home, dt. 24.4.64, directed that with effect from the year 1964-65, members of the Ganjam Reddi community shall be eligible to have scholarships from the Harijan Welfare Fund and the previous order of 1957 was cancelled. However, the entries in the various lists were not amplified to cover the three specified districts. The presumption, nevertheless, that the Reddis, who are entitled to the concessions, must have migrated from Ganjam, can be read into this order. Insistence on this has led to administrative difficulties. Though the number of applicants for scholarships is the highest even now from the Ramanathapuram district, Government concessions are availed of in almost all districts. It must in fairness be said that South Arcot district, where Reddis are a dominant caste, has not been responsible for any sizeable number of applications for scholarships of any kind.

Only two deputations met us to give oral evidence-one at Madurai from the aforesaid Mahajana Sangam and the other at Tirunelveli. Both these deputation's admitted that they cannot prove they are 'Ganjam Reddis' and wanted all the Reddis to be given concessions. They also admitted that there is no sub-caste among them and all of them are called Reddiars and there are no records to establish they are of 'Ganjam' origin. It is

APPROVED
P. S. KRISHNAN
Member Secretary
Commission

unfortunate that the representatives of this caste did not care to reply to our questionnaire in proper form. But, taking Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli and Madurai districts, there is no dearth of education amongst them, and, by various tests we have applied to assess the progress, the Reddiars did not appear to be a Backward Community.....”

11. In Karnataka, the inclusion of “Reddy” caste/community in the State List under “Vokkaliga” is inspite of adverse remarks on Vokkaliga including Reddy by the latest Commission set up by the State Govt. i.e., the third Backward Classes(Chinnappa Reddy) Commission according to which communities such as Reddy, Kapu, Kamma and Velama are similar in their customs, occupations and social status and are part of the Vokkaliga community which is one of the “principal agricultural communities of the state.”

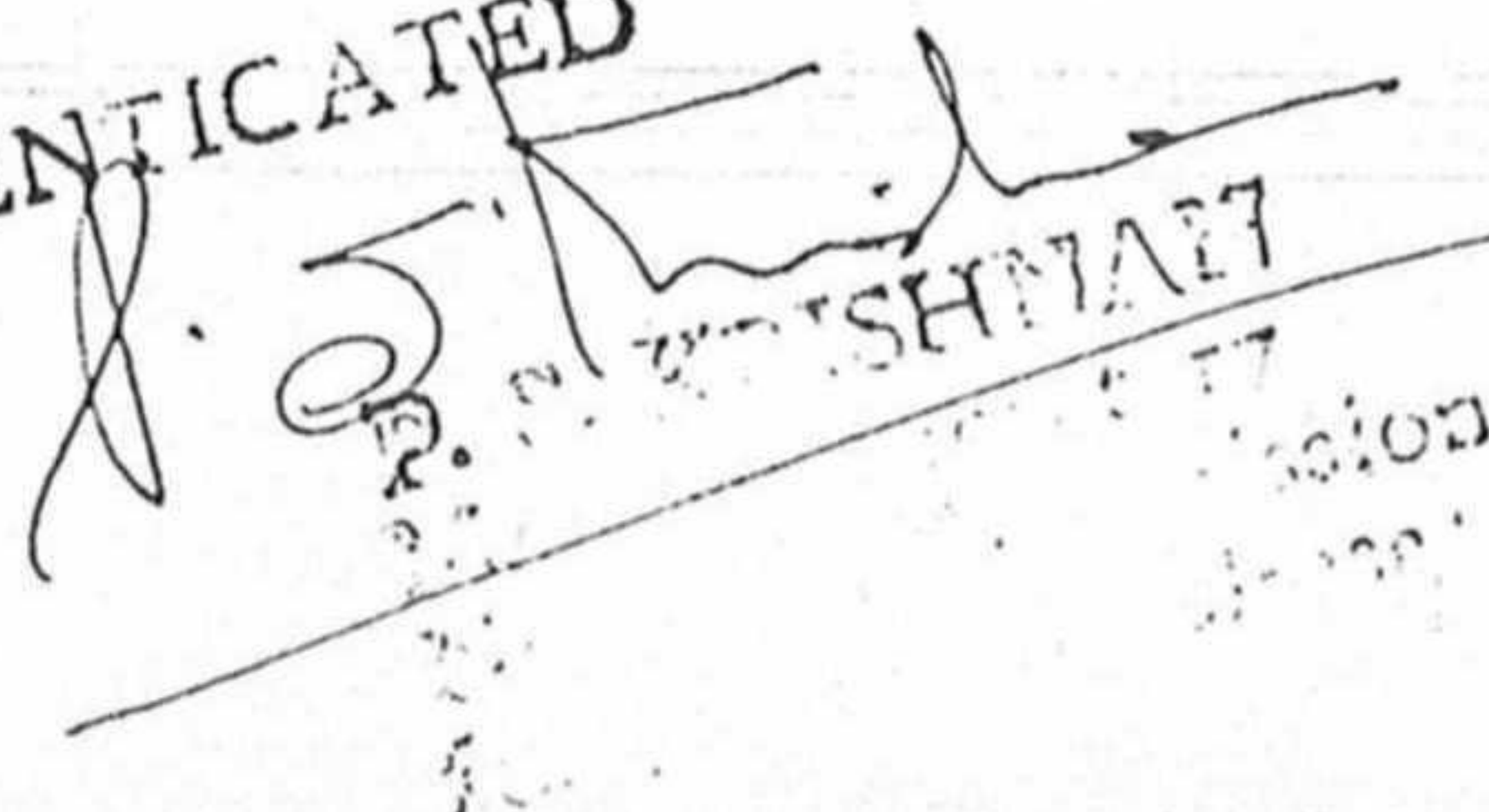
12. Having raised some issues regarding the tenability of inclusion of “Reddy(Ganjam)” in the list of BCs in respect of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu as above, it is pertinent to mention that the fact of a caste/community included in the List of Backward Classes for any State cannot by itself be a ground for inclusion of the same caste/community in another state, though it can become a supporting evidence if the factum of social and educational backwardness of the caste/community in the state in question is clearly established from the social-educational and other data. In the case of Reddis of Pondicherry available ethnographic literature quoted above and other evidence adduced before the Bench does not show this community as Socially and Educationally Backward, but on the contrary, it is clearly an advanced community in all respects. The Bench also notes the mention by representatives of the community of “Konda Reddy” as the same as “Reddy”. This is a travesty of truth and a flagrant misstatement as “Konda Reddy” is a tribal community concentrated in the remote hills of East Godavari, West Godavari and Khammam districts rightly included in the list of Scheduled Tribes for Andhra Pradesh, and it is totally different from and has nothing to do with “Reddy”.

13. The Bench found from the Request of Pondicherry State Reddi Nala Sangam, Pondicherry, that the Association made Requests for inclusion of Reddy(Ganjam) on three grounds:- (i) Economically & Educationally Backward (ii) Representation in Govt. Service is negligible (iii) To equip themselves with education, so as to enable them to compete in the society. The Bench did not find any evidence from the Requests as well as from other materials that the caste is socially backward which is the first condition and secondly the caste is educationally backward.

14. The Bench notes that the Request making party, during the Public Hearing and also in their request, tried to mislead the Bench by stating that ‘Konda Reddy’ is a part of the ‘Reddy’ caste. ‘Konda Reddy is a distinct Scheduled Tribe community which is included in the list of Scheduled Tribes for Andhra Pradesh.

15. Sattanathan Commission(First Backward Classes Commission, Tamil Nadu) unequivocally said that there is no dearth of education among the members of this community and by various tests the Reddiars do not appear to be a backward community. They have rejected the case of this community to be included in the list of Backward Classes both on the ground that they are not of Ganjam origin and on general grounds and

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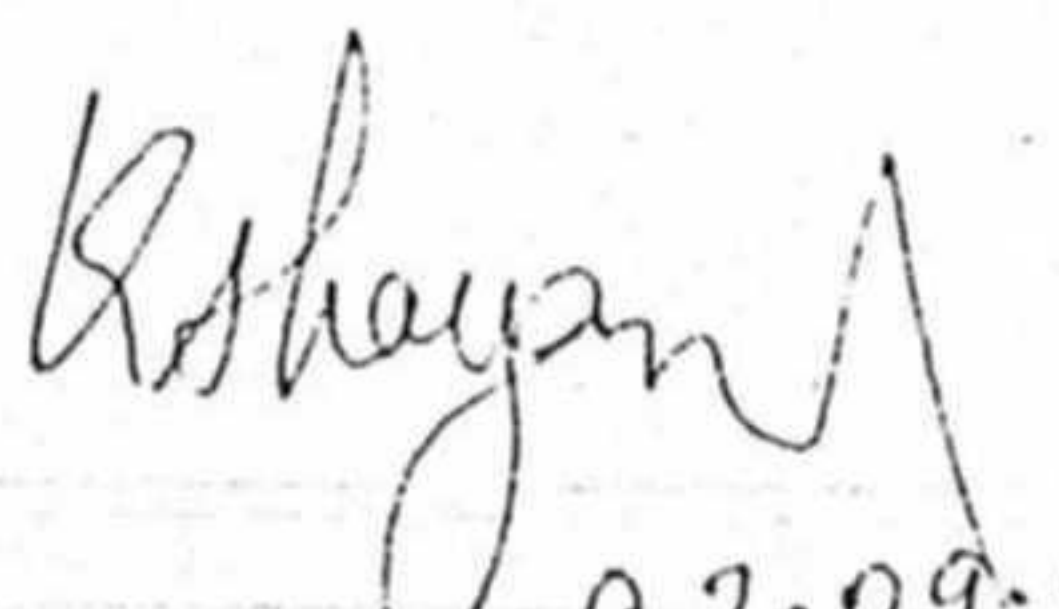
have gone to the extent of saying that there are no Ganjam Reddis. The Commission has also warned that retaining this in the list only keeps it open for abuse, inconvenience and administrative difficulties.

16. It is not denied before us that the Reddis in general are a community of prosperous land holders, being also engaged in other avocations resulting in abundance economic productivity. Although this particular community is said to have originated from the erstwhile States of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, the fact that in neither of the two States they were ever identified as a particular ethnic group or community, whether forward or backward is somewhat revealing. If the Reddy(Ganjam) had an identity of its own which is dissimilar or akin to Reddis in common, there would have been some material evidence or literature about their origin and subsequent existence. Apart from the fact that our own endeavours in the direction of securing some ethnic literature pertinent to the community has drawn on a blank, even the memorialists many of whom were well informed did not or were unable to produce any material or literature to support that Reddy(Ganjam) is a single community distinct from any other community in the country. On the other hand, the ethnographers like Thurston and Rangachari do not mention Reddy(Ganjam) anywhere in their books.

17. The NCBC after examining all relevant evidence including the above account of the First Backward Classes Commission of Tamil Nadu had already tendered its Advice to the Central Government for rejection of the Request for inclusion of "Reddy(Ganjam)" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Tamil Nadu vide its letter NCBC Advice No. 75/TN/98, dated 18.03.1998.

IV FINDINGS

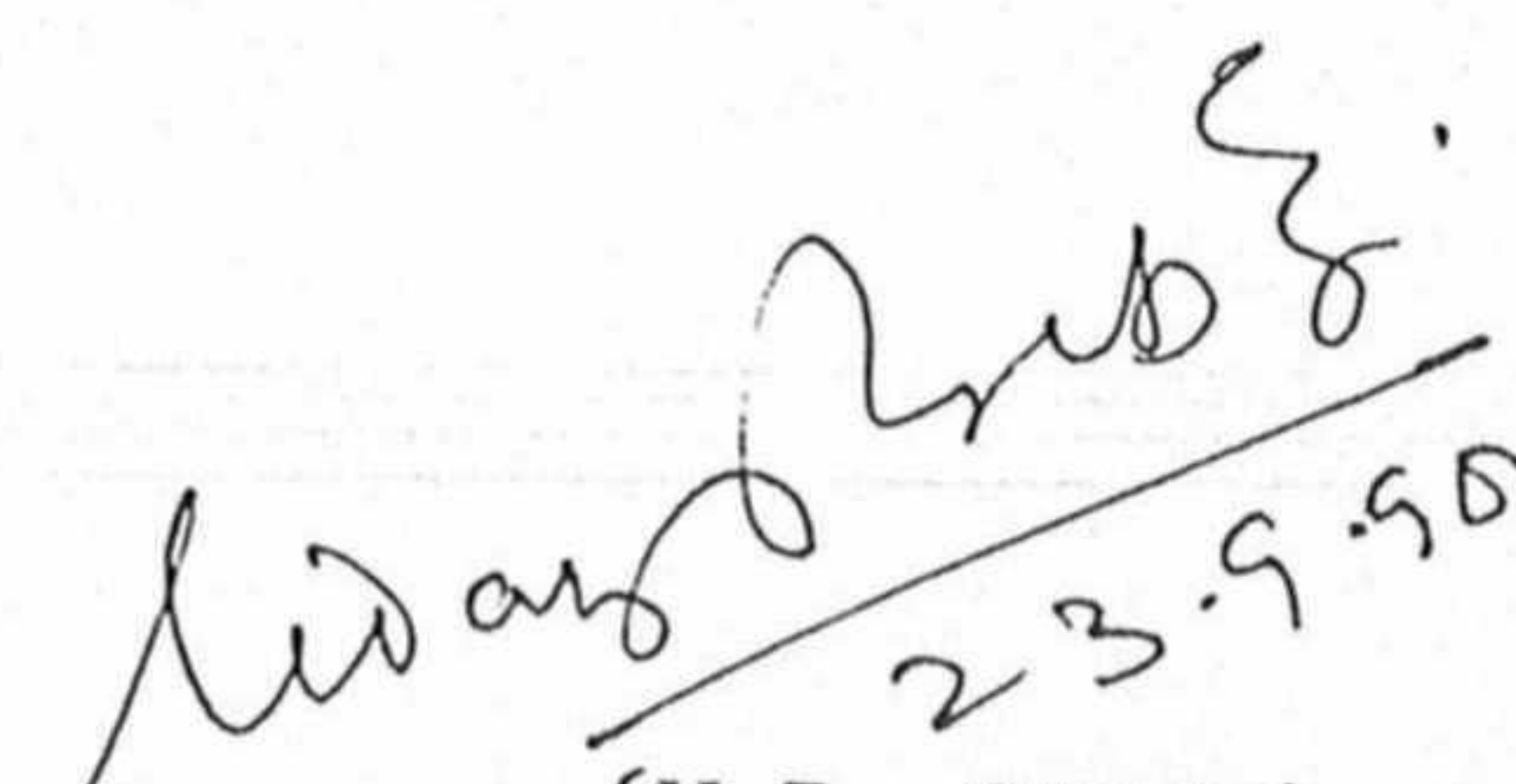
18. The authoritative statement referred to supra, makes it very clear that Reddy(Ganjam) as a community are not socially handicapped and are people of means. But on the other hand, the fact remains that no reference is made specifically or otherwise in their treatises by any of the authors is a strong indication that the Reddy(Ganjam) as a community had secured a separate caste label of its own in contrast to the Reddy community of which this Reddy(Ganjam) has probably been an integral part initially. The projection of Reddy(Ganjam) as a distinct caste on migration to Pondicherry, appears to be an artificial innovation with a view to secure the benefits made available to the genuine backward classes. Apart from the fact that the memorialists were not able to commend to our consideration any material in support of their stand, we also find that the facts and the circumstances lead us to the conclusion that Reddy(Ganjam) as a caste, has failed to establish its entitlement for being listed in the Central List of Backward Classes. We find that Reddy(Ganjam) is not established to be a community which is socially and educationally backward. Accordingly the claim by this Reddy(Ganjam) community for inclusion in the Central List of Backward Classes shall be rejected.


23.09.98
(SAHU AKSHAYA BHAI)

AUTHENTICATED


P. S. KRISHNAN

Member Secretary


23.9.98
(U.P. SINGH)

V. ADVICE OF THE COMMISSION

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 by the Central Government under section 9(2) of the Act:-

The Request for inclusion of "*Reddy(Ganjam)*" in the Central List of Backward Classes for *Pondicherry* *be rejected, as it is a socially advanced community.*

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.

Rohayan
23.09.98

Navtej Puadhi
23.9.98

P. V. Sreenivasulu
24.9.98

P. S. Krishnan

23.9.98

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