



प. एस. कृष्णन्
P.S. KRISHNAN
TEL. 6183190

रादस्य-राचिव
राष्ट्रीय पिछडा वर्ग आयोग

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

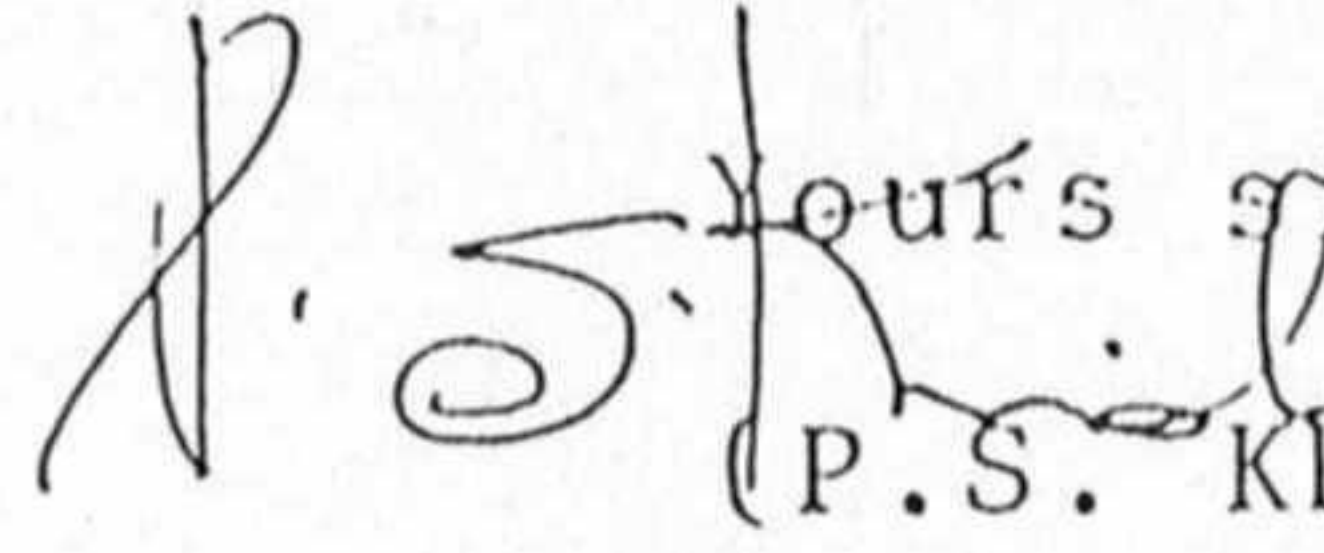
Member - Secretary
National Commission for Backward Classes
Government of India
Trikoot - 1, Bhikaiji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110 066

DO NCBC Advice No. Pondicherry 38/98

17. 11. 1998

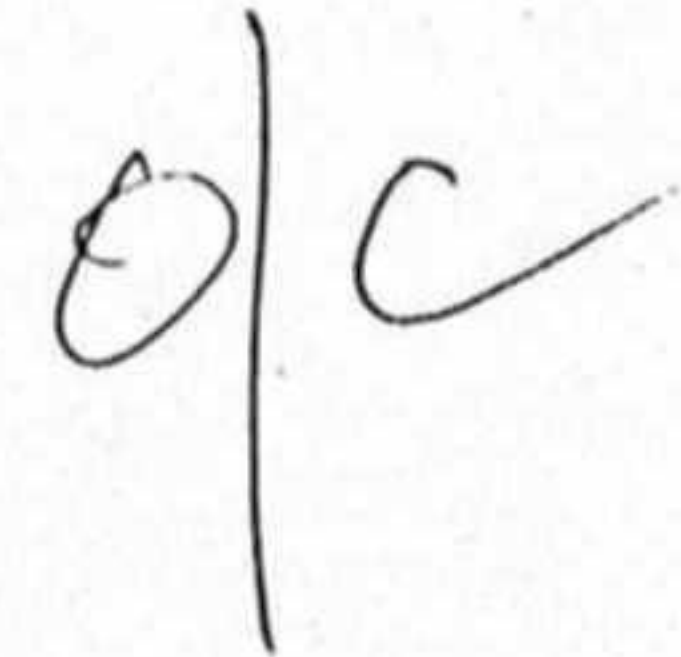
Dear Shri Manavalan,

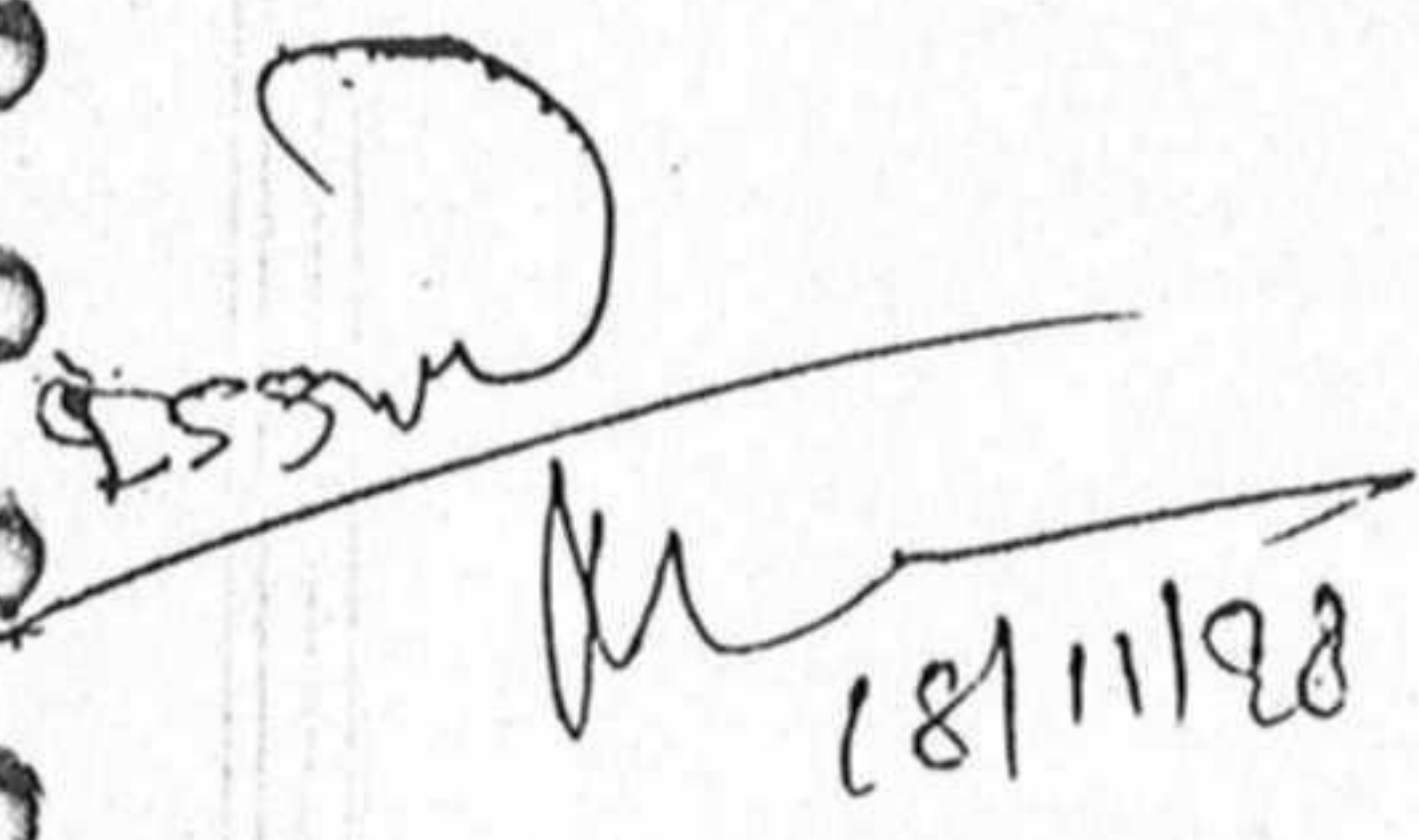
I am sending herewith the Advice of the National Commission for Backward Classes under Section 9(1) of the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993 for Inclusion of 'Navithar' as a synonym of 'Maruthuvar' in the Central List of Backward Classes for Pondicherry, duly authenticated, for necessary 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




18/11/98

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

PONDICHERRY BENCH

FINDINGS

Per Shri Sahu Akshaya Bhai, Member

Case: Request for inclusion of "Navithar" caste/
community in the Central List of Backward
Classes for Pondicherry.

I. REQUEST

This case arises from the Request received in this Commission from Shri P. Murugaiyan, Advocate, The Pondicherry Educated Employed Maruthuvar Friends Cultural Club, Pondicherry for inclusion of "Navithar" as synonym of Maruthuvar in the Central List of Backward Classes of Pondicherry.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

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 28th August, 1998. At the Public Hearing the State Government was represented by Shri Felix Sequeria, Welfare Secretary, Shri Salvraj, Deputy

AUTHENTICATED

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

Director, Social Welfare, Shri V.Swaminathan, Research Officer, Social Welfare and other officials. The community was represented by Shri P.Murougaiyan, Advocate, 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 principle of commonality recommended 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 Government also could not issue a Central List of Backward Classes for the U.T. of Pondicherry in 1993. The Government 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.12011/9/94-BCC dated 19.10.1994 issued a Common (Central) List of Backward Classes for the U.T. of Pondicherry. The caste/community/Synonym "Navithar" 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 relevant entries in the State List, Mandal List and Central List is as under:

APPROVED
P. S. KRISHNAN
20/10/94

State List

131. Maruthuvar

175. Pandithar (Anpattan, Pronopakari and Nasivan)

Mandal List

131. Maruthuvar

175. Pandithar (Anpattan, Pronopakari and Nasivan)

Central List

131. Maruthuvar

174. Pandithar (Anpattan, Pronopakari and Nasivan)

List of BCs Recommended by
State Level Committee for BCs

Maruthuvar - Navithar

Maruthuvar - Pandithar

Maruthuvar - Pariyari/Barber

5. "Navithar" is not included in the U.T. list of Backward Classes and the Mandal List of Backward Classes for Pondicherry. Therefore, "Navithar" is not included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Pondicherry as it did not fulfill the criteria of

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P. S. KRISHNAN
Member Secretary
Union

commonality i.e. being in the State list as well as Mandal List.

6. During the Public Hearing the U.T. officials stated that the "Navithar" caste/community is found in U.T. of Pondicherry and are socially backward.

7. The State Level Committee for Backward Classes, Pondicherry(First Report, 1995) have recommended "Navithar" for inclusion in the U.T. list of Pondicherry.

8. The NCBC's Questionnaire filled up by the Pondicherry Educated Employed Maruthuvar Friends Cultural Club, states that "Navithar" is the Synonym of "Maruthuvar". "Maruthuvar" is already included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Pondicherry at Sl.No.131 and it is listed as Most Backward in Tamil Nadu. Their traditional profession is Hair Cutting & Shaving. The caste/community is, in terms of the caste system linked with the traditional craft of Thavil and Nadhasuram. They are spread all over in Pondicherry with a population of 20,000. The women members of the community work as Mid-wife. The representation in Government Service, Public Sector, Private sector etc. is given as 0.25%. The literacy rate of the community is given as 0.5%. Percentage of members of the community living in Pucca Houses and Kachha Houses is given as 2.5% and 17.5% respectively.

9. People of India, Pondicherry, General Editor K.S.Singh, Anthropological Survey of India, Affiliated East-West Press Pvt. Ltd., Madras, 1994, under the head "Maruthuvan" writes as under:

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"The Maruthuvan are traditional barbers and surgeons. They are referred to by several synonyms, such as Ambattan, Navidar, Kudimagan, Pariyari etc. They call themselves Maruthuvar because of their medical knowledge and Ambattan because of their occupation as barbers.... The name 'Maruthuvan' refers to their original occupation, that of medicine men to which, according to Thurston(1909), were added later the profession of village barber and musician.

The Maruthuvar are inhabitants of Pondicherry, Karaikal and Mahe.....

The Maruthuvar are divided into two religious sects, the Vaishnavites and Saivites. They are called by different synonyms on the basis of their professions, such as Navidan(musician), Pariyari(medicine man) and Kudimagan(farmer)...

The Maruthuvar are hierarchically placed among the lower castes because they are professional barbers. They are however, superior to the Harijans in the social hierarchy....

The literacy level among Maruthuvar men and women used to be very low as late as 1981. It is better now and many families send their children to school, but there are many dropouts due to socio-economic reasons."

10. Edgar Thurston and Rangachari(Castes and Tribes of Southern India", Vol.VII, Asian Educational Services, New Delhi, Madras, 1993, first published 1909) refer to Navidans, under the head "Vettuvan" as follows:

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1988

Under the head "Velakkattalavan", Thurston and Rangachari (Vol. VII), writes that "Velakkattalavan or Vilakkattalavan is stated in Travancore Census Report, 1901, to indicate chieftains among barbers, and to be the name for members of families from which persons are selected to shave kings or nobles. In the Madras Census Report, 1891, Velakkattalavan is said to be 'the name in South Malabar of the caste that shaves Nayers and higher castes. The same man is called in North Malabar Valinchiyan, Navidan, or Nasiyan."

IV. Findings

11. From the evidence in ethnographic accounts, the submission of the Government, and the recommendation of the State Level Committee for Backward Classes, it is the Finding of the Bench that "Navithar" is a synonym of "Maruthuvar", castes/communities traditionally associated with the occupation of "hair-cutting and shaving" and is Socially and Educationally Backward. It comes under the Fast-Track category as it is covered by guideline 2(e) of the NCBC's "Guidelines for Consideration of Requests for Inclusion and Complaints of under Inclusion in the Central List of Backward Classes" and also by para 7 of the Procedural Clarification on the same Guidelines. Therefore, "Navithar" should be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Pondicherry as synonym of

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"Maruthuvar" at the existing entry No.131 as follows:

"131.Maruthuvar,Navithar."

Kishaya
12.11.98
(SAHU AKSHAYA BHAI)

U.P. Singh
13.11.98
(U.P.SINGH)

V. Advice of the Commission

12. 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:

"Navithar" be included as synonym of "Maruthuvar" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Pondicherry at the existing entry No.131 as follows:

"131.Maruthuvar,Navithar."

On account of the unfortunate demise of one of the Members Shri Navtej Puadhi on 16-8-1998, this unanimous Advice of the Commission does not bear the signature of that Member. The validity of the Advice,

[Signature]
P. S. SINGH
13.11.98

Gokhary
12.11.98

13.11.98

P. W. Stegall ~~and~~ ~~Reedley~~
17.11.98

P. S. Krishna
17.11.98

AUTHENTICATED

P. S. KRISHNAN,
Secretary,
National Commission
for Backward Classes
Madras.