



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 - 110066

॥ एस. कृष्णन्
S. KRISHNAN
TEL : 6183190

DO NCBC Advice No. West Bengal 28, 30-33/98

12. 3. 1998

Dear Shri Manavalan,

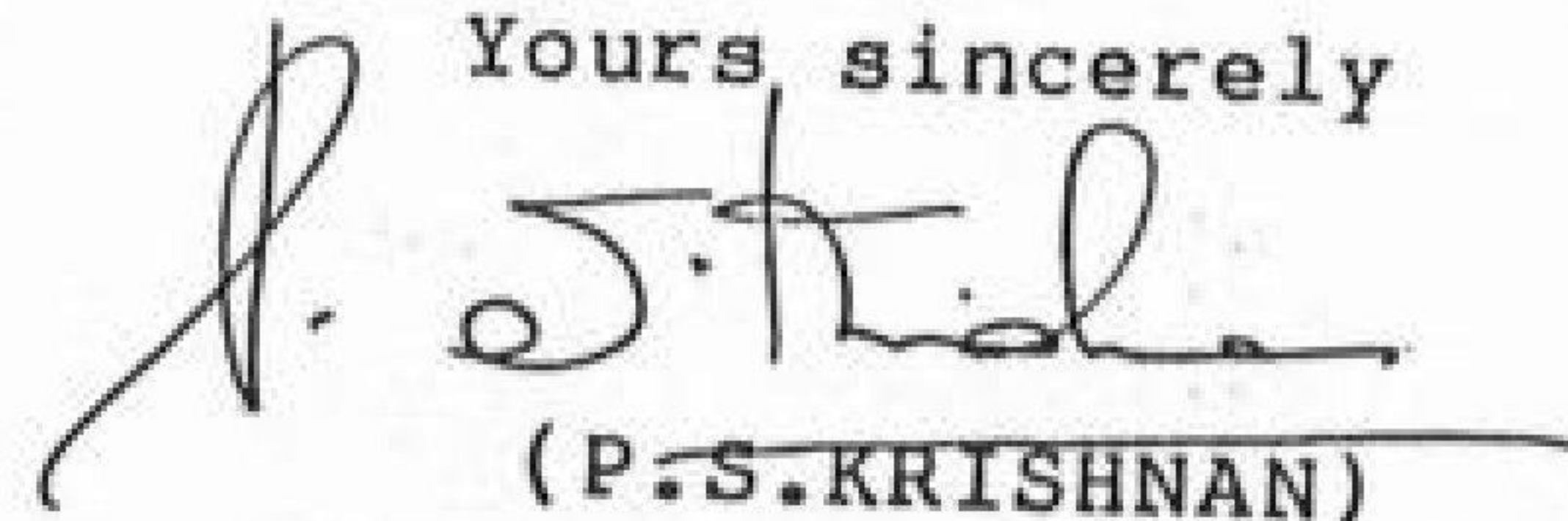
I am sending herewith the Advices of the National Commission for Backward Classes, under Section 9(1) of the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993, for inclusion of

- (1) Bhujel
- (2) Jogi
- (3) Dhunia
- (4) Nembang
- (5) Churihar

in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the Act.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely


(P.S. KRISHNAN)

Encl: As stated.

Shri D.K. Manavalan
Secretary to Govt. of India
Ministry of Welfare
Shastri Bhavan
NEW DELHI 110 001

O.I.G.S.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES
WEST BENGAL
FINDINGS

Case :-Request for inclusion of "Bhujel" in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal.

Request Per Shri U.P.Singh, Member

This case arises from the Requests received in this Commission from the Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal, Scheduled Caste & Tribes Welfare Department, Calcutta vide letter No. 63-TW/EC/M-6/82(-I) dated 18.1.1996 for inclusion of "Bhujel" in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal. At the time of Public Hearing Bhujel (khawas) Association, P.O. Kalimpong also gave their Request alongwith a copy of the filled in West Bengal Commission for Backward Classes Questionnaire.

II. Public Hearing

2. The two-Member West Bengal Bench of the Commission Consisting of Hon'ble Member Shri U.P.Singh, and Hon'ble Member Shri Sahu Askhaya Bhai, NCBC held a Public Hearing at Darjeeling on 24.9.1997 in respect of this Request . At the Public Hearing the State Govt. was represented by Shri M.K.Chaudhary, Director, Cultural and Research Institute, Calcutta, Shri S.D.Sherpa, Project Officer & District Welfare Officer, Scheduled Castes & Tribes Welfare Department, Siliguri, West Bengal. The Community was represented by the following:-

AUTHENTICATED

[Signature]

P. S. SHERMAN
18.10.1997
for the Commission

1). Shri Ram Bhujel
Lecturer
Kalimpong College,
P.O.Kalimpong
Distt. Darjeeling, West Bengal.

ii). Shri Manidra Bhujel
Lecturer
Govt. P.T.T.I.
P.O.Kalimpong
Distt. Darjeeling,
West Bengal.

III. Facts

3. The State Govt. of West Bengal 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 West Bengal 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 West Bengal in 1993. The Govt. of West Bengal issued its first list of Backward Classes by its Notification No. 346-TW/EC/M-6/82(I) dated 13th July, 1994 in the Calcutta Gazette of the same date, which consisted of 14 entries. The Government of India, Ministry of Welfare, by its Notification No. 163 dated 19.10.1994, published in the Gazette of India of 20.10.1994, issued a common list of OBCs for West Bengal which consisted of the same 14 castes/communities.

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SECRETARY
GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

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4. The Government of West Bengal issued its second instalment of Backward Classes consisting of 12 castes/communities by its Notification No. 705-TW/EC/M-6/82(I) dated 13th December 1994 in the Calcutta Gazette of the same date and its third instalement of 3 castes/communities was issued by its Notification No. 370-TW/EC/M-6/82(I) dated 12th May 1995, published in Calcutta Gazette of the same date. The State Government has also issued a fourth instalment of a Backward Classes by its Notification No. 1179-TW/EC/M-6/82(I) dated 1st December, 1995, published in the Calcutta Gazeete of the same date including "Bhujel" at entry No.1.

5. "Bhujel" is one of the 9 castes/communities included in the fourth State List of Backward Classes issued on 1.12.95, in respect of which the State Government's request was received on 18th January, 1996.

6. The Corresponding entry in the Mandal Commission's List of Backward Classes for West Bengal is as follows:-

"34. Bhugal" Backward Classes.

"24. Bhugal" Depressed Backward Class.

7. On the day of Public Hearing, Shri Ram Bhujel, President, Bhujel Association, Kalimpong Darjeeling, West Bengal submitted their Request which contained the following facts:-

i). Bhujel, a caste, found to be inhabited in the Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts of West Bengal and Sikkim.

ii). The Mandal list for the West Bengal & Sikkim have included their caste/community as follows:-

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[Signature]
P. S. PRAMANAN
Mandal Commission
No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100

Backward Classes

Depressed Backward
Classes

Sikkim "1. Bajel"
West Bengal "34. Bhugal"

"1. Bajel."
"24. Bhugal"

- iii) The State Govt. vide their Gazette Notification No. 1179-TW/EC/M-6/82-1 dated 1st December, 1995 have declared 'Bhujel' as OBC in the Serial No. 1.
- iv) Population of the 'Bhujel' caste/community inhabited in Darjeeling and in Jalpaigudi districts were reported 11, 914 and 2,129 respectively.
- v) The majority of the population live below poverty line as per criteria of CSR Book 1993.
- vi) As regard their literacy status 53.14% & 57.85% of their population in Jalpaigudi & Darjeeling respectively have had education below class X level and 3.61% & 6.14% upto X.
- vi) Historically the 'Bhujel' caste/community is a suppressed caste of the Gorkhas. This has bearing to the imprisonment of Bhujels in the palaces in Nepal prior to king Chandrasekhar.
- vii) To uplift educational standard their children should be provided with stipend as in the case of SC/ST.
- viii) Bhujels are so less in number and so cornered in few small remote villages of Darjeeling and Dooresans of Sikkim that they form small belts in these places. This is because of their social status that they were pushed to corner and inhabited in colonies. Such areas may be

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Member Secretary
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declared as OBC Belt.

ix). According to them the traditional occupation of the caste/community is agricultural labour and even today the members belonging to the caste/community were engaged as agricultural labour and labourers in tea gardens and elsewhere. This is the suppressed class of Gorakhas and formed special belts for inhabitats and on accounts of these reasons cannot compete with the other Backward Classes. He made it clear that the Correct name of the caste is "Bhujal".

8. The President, Bhujel Association, Darjeeling also enclosed filled in WBCC'S Questionnaire for Darjeeling & Jalpaiguri which contain the following additional facts:-

i). 95% of the people in the locality treat them like SC & ST.

ii). Almost all persons of the community live in Kachha house.

iii). Data regarding percentage of population employed in cultivation occupation is reproduced here:-

a).	Own land	8%
b).	Bargadar	10%
c).	On Owner's	82%
	land as labour.	

The above data show that the caste/community mainly is engaged in agricultural labour.

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P. S. Krishnan

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

iv). As regards to their educational level the Association stated high drop out rate before completion of primary education due to their children joining family's occupation.

9. Shri D.N.Pradhan, President, Darjeeling Newar Sangathan and Other Backward Classes Joint Forum, Darjeeling, West Bengal who was also present during the Public Hearing to represent the "Newar" caste/community, stated that the "Bhujel" caste/community people were scattered all over the tea estates and on the terrain of hill regions and most of them are engaged as manual labour on tea gardens. He emphasised that the caste/community is very much eligible for inclusion in the Central List of Backward Classes for the State.

10. H.H.Risley in his book "The Tribes and castes of Bengal", Ethnographic glossary (Firma Mukhopadhyay, Calcutta, India, 1981, 1st Edition, 1891, Vol.I, P.-116) writes that Bhujal is a thar or Sept of Mangers in Darjeeling. \ People of India-Sikkim (Volume XXXIX, published by Anthropological Survey of India, in 1993, p.-32) states that \ the Bhujel caste/community is a Nepal community, locally called Khawas. The Bhujels generally use the surname 'Bhujel', while some of them use 'Khawas' too. The community has no sub-group. \ They had been slaves of the royal family and nobles, as palanquin carriers and beaten rice makers. The women were engaged in fetching water. But at a later date, a king of Nepal freed them all from their masters, by paying cash from the royal treasury.

11. Those present during Public Hearing, who were from different sections of society, not only did not object to the proposed inclusion of the "Bhujel" caste/community in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal, but also supported it.

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Member Secretary
National Commission
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IV. FINDINGS

12. From the above evidence it is Finding of the Bench that the "Bhujel" caste/community is a socially backward class and it should therefore be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for West Bengal at entry no. 34 as follows:-

" 34. Bhujel"

Ashayan
21. 01.98 ~~03-03-98~~
(SAHU AKSHAYA BHAI)

Udai Pratap Singh
21.1.98
(UDAI PRATAP SINGH)

AUTHENTICATED

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

V. Advice of the Commission

13. The Commission considered and agreed in full with the above findings of the West Bengal Bench and decided to tender the following Advice to Central Government under section 9 (1) of the NCBC Act, 1993, for action by the Central Government under Sections 9 (2) of the Act:-

"Bhujel" should be included in the Central list of Backward Classes for West Bengal at entry no. 34 as follows:-

"34. Bhujel"

K. Shyam
21.01.98

Madan Singh
21.1.98

Sanjay Kumar
22.1.98

P. K. Shyamsundar
27.1.98

P. S. Krishnan
10.2.98

JUSTICE P. K. SHYAMSUNDAR
Chairperson
National Commission For
Backward Classes
Government of India
New Delhi.

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