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सदस्य-सचिव

राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग

भारत सरकार

त्रिकूट-१, भीकाजी कामा प्लेस, नई दिल्ली - ११००६६

Member - Secretary

National Commission for Backward Classes

Government of India

Trikoot - 1, Bhikaiji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110 066

NCBC Advice No. Pondicherry 48/99

20.04.1999

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 the Inclusion of "Meenavar-Sembadavar, Meenavar-Chinna Pattanavan, Meenavar-Peria Pattanavan" at entry no. 186 in the Central List of Backward Classes for the Union Territory of Pondicherry, and for the modification of the existing entry "Pattanavan" at entry no. 186 as "Meenavar-Pattanavan" and for the correction of spelling error in respect of "Paravatharajakulam" at entry no. 200 and also for its modification as "Meenavar-Parvatharajakulam" and transfer to entry no. 186, duly authenticated, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the NCBC Act.

Issued
20/4/99

Yours sincerely

O/C
(P.S. KRISHNAN)

Encl: As stated.

Shri D.K. Manavalan
Secretary to Govt. of India
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Shastri Bhavan
NEW DELHI

NATONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

PONDICHERRY BENCH

FINDINGS

PER SHRI SAHU AKSHAYA BHAI, MEMBER

CASE: REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF Meenavar, Sembadavar
CASTES/COMMUNITIES IN THE CENTRAL LIST OF
BACKWARD CLASSES FOR PONDICHERRY.

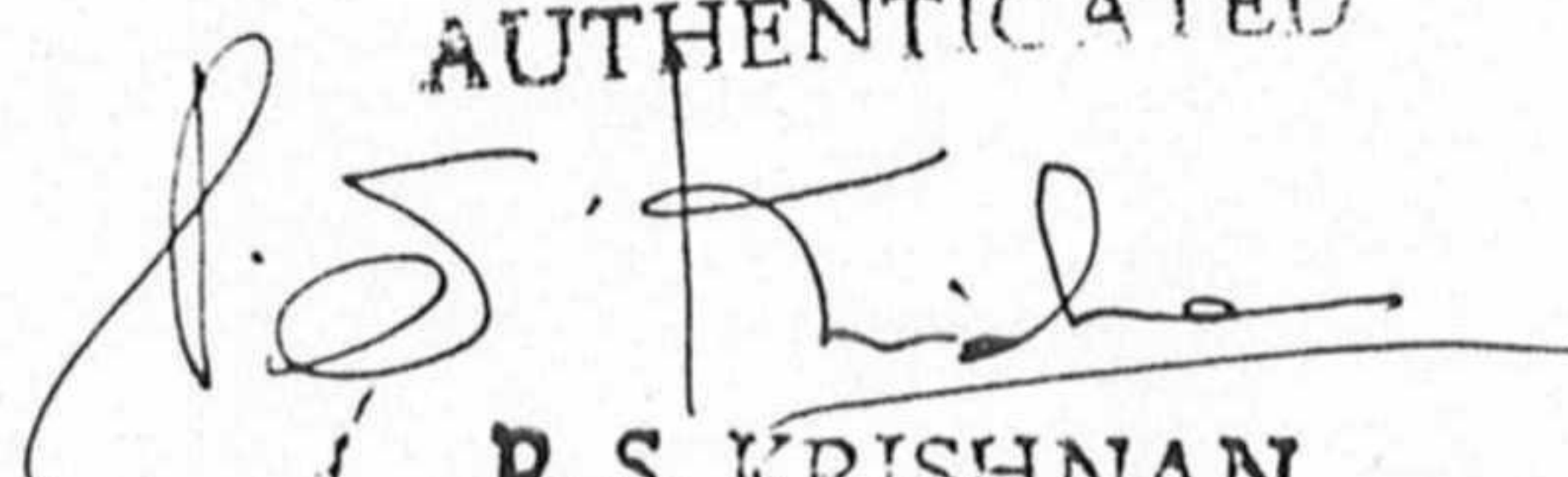
I REQUEST

This case arises from the request received in this Commission from Shri Govindaraju, General Secretary, Pirpadukthapattor Nala Sangam, Pondicheery for inclusion of "Meenavar, Sembadavar" Caste/Community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Pondicherry.

II. Public Hearing

2. A two-Member Bench of the NCBC consisting of Hon'ble Members Shri Sahu Akshaya Bhai and Shri U.P.Singh held a Public Hearing in respect of this request at Pondicherry on 27th & 28th August, 1998. At the Public Hearing, the U.T. Government was represented by Shri Felix Sequeria, Welfare Secretary, Shri A.Salvaraj, Deputy Director, Social Welfare, Shri V.Swaminathan, Research Officer, Social Welfare and other officals.

AUTHENTICATED



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

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 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.2094-Wel(SW)-II dated 6-7-1994. The List issued by the Government of U.T. of Pondicherry is a mechanical repetition in toto of the Mandal Commission's List. All the entries in the Mandal List, except entry at Sl.No.161 "New Buddhists, Nov Buddhists" appears in the Backward Classes List of U.T. of Pondicherry. Thereafter, the Central Government vide Ministry of Welfare's Resolution No.120119/94-BCC dated 19.10.1994 issued a common(Central) list of Backward Classes for the U.T. of Pondicherry which in turn is seen to be a mechanical repetition of the U.T. list of Pondicherry. These Castes/Communities are not included in the U.T. List of Backward Classes as well as in the Mandal List of Backward Classes and therefore "Meenavar, Sembadavar" castes/communities are not included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Pondicherry.

4. No member or representatives of the caste/community "Meenavar, Sembadavar" appeared before the Bench during both the Public Hearings held on 29th & 30th April, 1998 and 27th & 28th August, 1998 inspite of the wide publicity given through the media and personal communication sent to the applicant by the NCBC.


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9. An account is available in the Report of the First Backward Classes Commission, Tamil Nadu, Vol.II, 1985, under the head "Meenavar" which mentions as under:

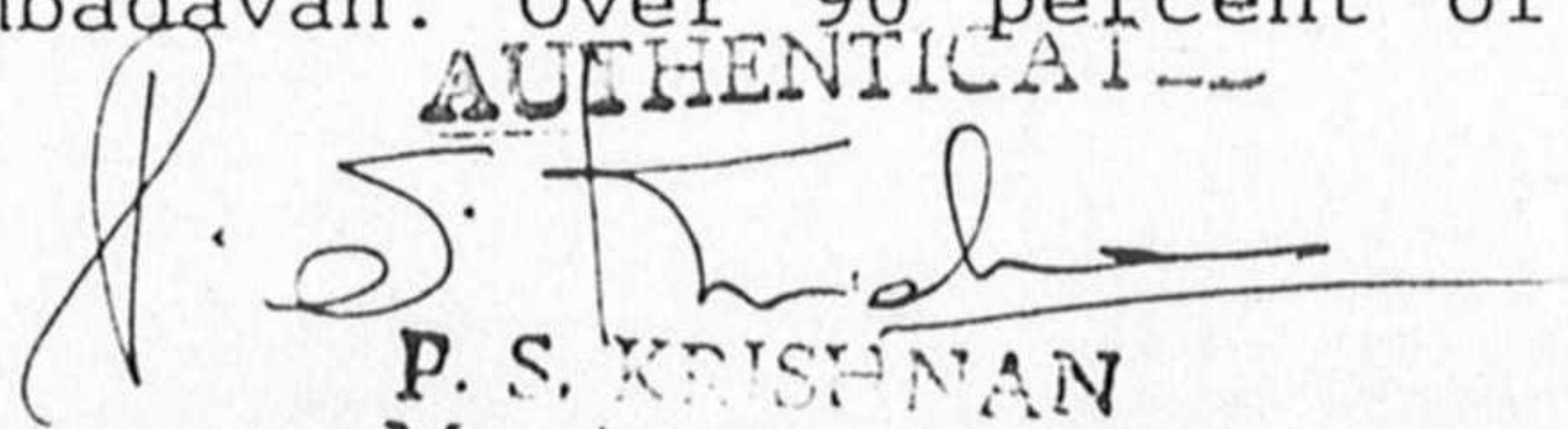
"This is a community which is devoted to fishing. The *Meenavars* in general are classified into two principal groups with reference to the area of their operation. Thus, the coastal fisherman operating in the sea are known by the name 'Pattanavars' while those engaged in the inland water sources are called *Sembadavans*. Since 1947, Sembadavans came to be described as 'Parvatharajakulam', an attempt to assume a high sounding name to rise their status.

The coastal fishermen during the rough seasons and the inland fisherman during the non-seasons, are found to be engaging themselves to some extent in agricultural operations, weaving, besides petty trade. Ferrymen mostly belongs to the Paravatharajakulam community. The women folk in general help their men in selling their catch by carrying them to markets situated in far away urban areas."

10. People of India, Pondicherry, Vol.XXXVI General Editor K.S.Singh, Anthropological Survey of India, Affiliated East-West Press Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi, under the head "Sembadavan" write as under:

"The Sembadavan are a fishing community, distributed throughout the Pondicherry Union Territory. They are called Nattar, Kavandan, Maniyakkaran, Paguththar Pillai or Guha Vellalar. They prefer to be called Nattar, but others usually call them Sembadavan....

Fishing is the traditional and primary occupation of the Sembadavan. Over 90 percent of the


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populatin in Veerampattinam, one of the villages surveyed, are engaged in fishing. While men bring in the catch, women market it. They still use antiquated fishing techniques. They sail mainly in Kattumaram(catamarans). Most of them use cotton nets. Nylon nets are rarely used. On an average, a person earns Rs.15-20 a day."

11. Edgar Thruston and Rangachari(Castes and Tribes of Southern India, Asian Educational Services, New Delhi, Madras, 1993, first published 1909)under the head 'Sembadavan' write as under:

"The Sembadavans are the fishermen of the Tamil country, who carry on their calling in fresh water tanks(ponds), lakes and rivers, and never in the sea. Some of them are ferrymen, and the name has been derived from sem(good), Padavan(boatmen)..."

IV. Findings

12. From the above materials and facts, the Bench came to the finding that "*Meenavar*" is a traditional *fishermen/ferrymen* Caste/Community. It comes under the Fast-track category as they are 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 and 9 of the Procedural Clarification on the same Guidelines. Therefore, "*Meenavar*" deserves Inclusion in the List of Backward Classes and should be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Pondicherry. The community is known by different names such as Sembadavar, Parvatharajakulam, Pattanavan. The latter are divided into Chinna Pattanavan and Peria Pattanavan. Of these names, the Central List of BCs for Pondicherry already

contains 'Pattanavan and Parvatharajakulam', the latter with a spelling error as 'Parvatharajakulam' at entry nos.186 and 200 respectively. The First State Level Committee for Backward Classes, Pondicherry has recommended the Inclusion of Sembadavar, Chinna Pattanavan and Peria Pattanavan in the State List apart from 'Pattanavan and Parvatharajakulam, which were already existing in the State List, and some other names like "Pattinava Chettiar, Chettiar and Nattar" all in a hyphenated form with Meenavar as given at para 7 above. Of these, "-Chettiar", "-PattinavaChettiar" and "-Naattar" are apparently only titles. In view of these, the Bench is of the conclusion that while including "Meenavar" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Pondicherry, its synonyms Sembadavar, Pattanavan, Chinna Pattanavan, Peria Pattanavan and Parvatharajakulam should be specifically covered in a hyphenated form with Meenavar as suggested by the State Level Committee for Backward Classes of Pondicherry, at a single entry. Therefore, entry no. 186 in the Central List of BCs for Pondicherry should be amended as follows:-

"186. Meenavar-Sembadavar,
Meenavar-Pattanavan,
Meenavar-Chinna Pattanavan,
Meenevar-Peria Pattanavan"
Meenavar-Parvatharajakulam

Existing Entry No.200 should,until a fresh re-serialisation of all entries, be kept as:

"200.(transferred to entry No.186)

Akshaya
15.04.99
(Sahu Akshaya Bhai)

J. H. SPANAN
 Member of the
 National Commission
 for Backward Classes

16.4.95
(U.P. Singh)

V.

Advice of the Commission

13. 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:

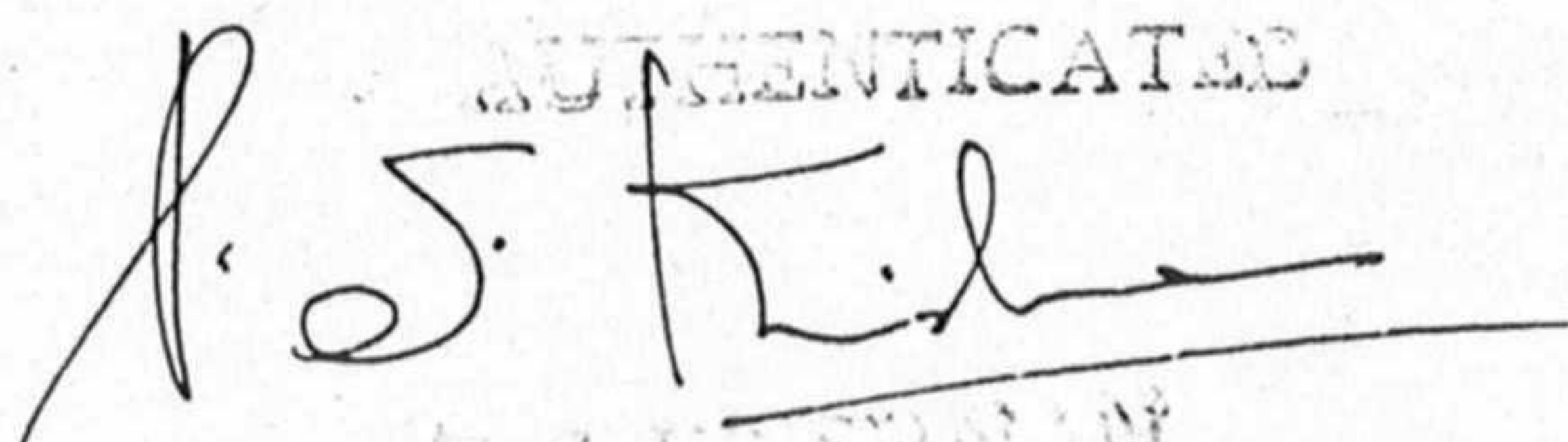
" *Meenavar, Sembadavar, Chinna Pattanavan, Peria Pattanavan* be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for the U.T. of Pondicherry at the existing entry No.186 "*Pattanavan*". *Parvatharajakulam* with a spelling error as "*Paravatharajakulam*" is already included in the Central List at entry No.200. Therefore, "*Parvatharajakulam*" at entry No.200 should be transferred to entry No.186 so that the amended entry reads as follows:-

"186.*Meenavar-Sembadavar,
Meenavar-Pattanavan,
Meenavar-Chinna Pattanavan,
Meenevar-Peria Pattanavan
Meenavar-Parvatharajakulam*"

Existing Entry No.200 should, until a fresh re-serialisation of all entries, be kept as:

"200.(transferred to entry No.186)

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.


P. S. K. L.
Member
National Commission
for Backward Classes

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.

B. Shayan
15.04.99

Shayan B. Shayan
16.4.99

P. S. Krishnan
16.4.99

P. S. Krishnan
19.4.99

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