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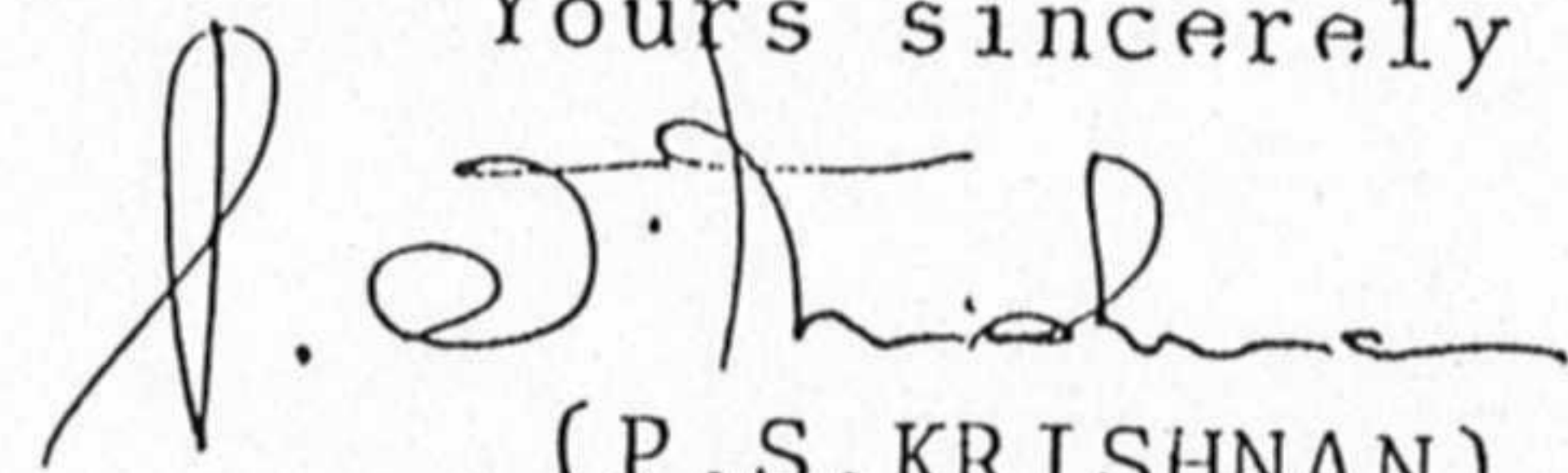
नई दिल्ली - 110 066
MEMBER-SECRETARY
NATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR BACKWARD CLASSES
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW DELHI - 110 066
08. 10. 1998

NCBC Advice No. 23 Bihar/98

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 "Shershahbadi" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Bihar, duly authenticated, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the Act.

Yours sincerely


(P.S. KRISHNAN)
9c

Encl: As stated

Shri D.K. Manavalan,
Secretary to Govt. of India
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Shastri Bhavan, NEW DELHI 110 001

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

BIHAR BENCH

FINDINGS

Case: Request for Inclusion of "Shershahbadi" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Bihar

Per Shri P.S.Krishnan, Member-Secretary

I. REQUEST

This case arises from the Request received in this Commission from Shri Mohd. Badruddin, President, Shershahbadi Students Development Union, Bihar, Patna Branch for the Inclusion of the Muslim caste/community of "Shershahbadi" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Bihar.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

2. The two-Member Bihar Bench of the Commission consisting of Shri P.S.Krishnan, Hon'ble Member-Secretary, NCBC and Prof. Uday Pratap Singh, Hon'ble Member, NCBC held a Public Hearing in respect of this Request at Patna on 08.01.1998. At the Public Hearing the State Government was represented by Shri Harun Rashid, Deputy-Secretary, Deptt. of Personnel & Administrative Reforms and other officers. Prof. Rameshwar Prasad Singh, Hon'ble Member, Bihar State Commission for Backward Classes was also present during the Hearing and provided valuable information. The community was represented by S/Shri Md. Ashafaque Alam, Md. Amir Hussain, Md. Hasan, Md. Mazahid Alam, Abdul Razzaque

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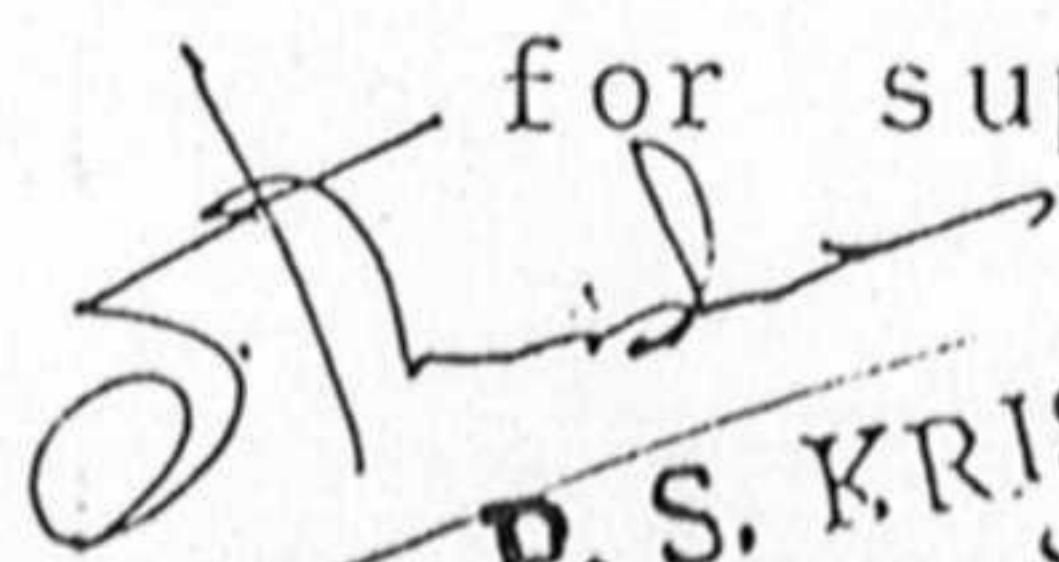

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National Commission

III. FACTS

3. Shershahbadi caste/community is not included in the first-phase Central List of Backward Classes for Bihar prepared and notified in 1993 on the basis of the principle of commonality (ie., inclusion in the Central List of those castes/communities which were included in both the Mandal Commission's List of BCs and the State List that existed at that time) because it was not included in both the Mandal Commission's List of BCs for Bihar and the State Government's List.

4. The Government of Bihar, on the basis of the Advice/recommendation of the State Backward Classes Commission, has since ordered the inclusion of "Shershahbadi" in the State List at entry no. 102 of Annexure-I (Most Backward Classes).

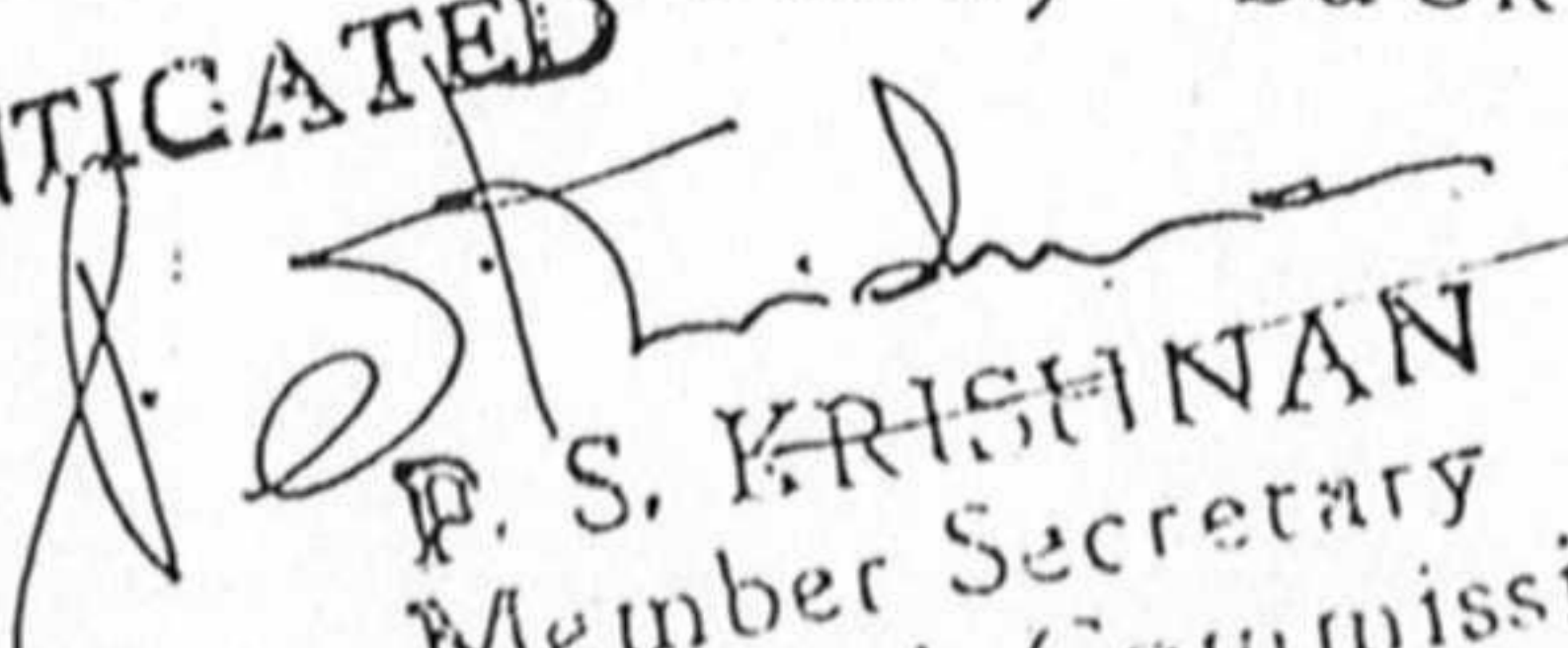
5. According to the data/information furnished in the NCBC's Questionnaire by Shri Mohd. Badruddin, Shershahbadi is a Muslim community whose population of about 16 lakh is concentrated in the Katihar, Purnia, Kishanganj, Araria, Shahebganj, Pakur, Supaol districts of the State. The Questionnaire gives "Cultivation" as the occupation on which the members of the caste/community mainly depend for their livelihood. The Questionnaire states that their occupation mainly involves manual labour both rendered for wage as well as on their own land. It is stated that members of the community are also engaged in rickshaw pulling, dam & building construction labour etc and that a few of the members of the community are also engaged in "poultry selling, cattle selling, wooden & Jute Business and Begging". Some women of the community are said to be involving themselves in "jute preparing" and "Biri(Bidi) making". The Children of the community are engaged in agricultural and other manual labour like Dam & Building Contruction, Fishing, Grass selling and Truck loading etc. for supplementing their family income. Some are Bandhua


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Mazdoor. 80 to 90 percent of the population of the community are landless (both agricultural and non-agricultural) labourers. In the Questionnaire it is also stated that the caste/community is, in terms of the caste system, traditionally identified with "Ketha (Traditional Bed Sheet) Making", "Shika (Hanger for domestic utensils made of Jute) making", "Chopi making" etc. The literacy rate of the community is given as 0.03% as against the State average of 38.54%. Regarding the community's representation in Government service it is stated that while there is "Nil" representation in Class I, there are only "1 Engineer, 4 Lecturers, 3 Doctors" in Class II, "1 C.I., 1 Labour Inspector, 2 Junior Engineers, 400 Madrasa & Primary teachers and 10 High School teachers" in Class III, and 20 Peons in Class IV. 99.9% of the families of the community is stated to be residing in Kachha houses.

6. During the Public Hearing, the representatives of the community stated that originally their community members were migrants from the Murshidabad division of West Bengal. Regarding the name "Shershabadi" they clarified that the name is derived from Shershah Suri who recruited people in his army and when he lost the war against Humayun, some of his soldiers ran away and hid themselves on the banks of the Ganges and Kosi rivers and started settling there. They were looked down upon by the Hindus and by other Muslims. The representatives of the community also stated that the majority of their members are agricultural labourers. They also stated that their social position can be said to be below that of the Kulahia community of Muslims, though the representatives of the Kulahia community who were present said that the Shershabadis are equal to Kulahias and not inferior. (This Bench has examined the Request for Inclusion of Kulahia community in the Central List of Backward Classes for Bihar and on the basis of available evidence has come to the Finding that Kulahia community of Muslims constitute a Socially Backward Class. The Commission's Advice based on

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Backward Classes

this Finding has already been tendered to the Central Government for Inclusion of Kulahia in the Central List of Backward Classes for Bihar vide NCBC Advice No. 22 Bihar/98 sent with DO NCBC Advice No. 22 Bihar/98 dated 28.9.98).

7. Shershahabadi caste/community is attested to in the Purnea District Gazetteer by P.C.Roy Chaudhury (Secretariat Press, Bihar, Patna, 1963) a copy of relevant extracts of which was furnished to the Bench by the representatives of the Kulahia community. The account given in the Gazetteer is as follows:-

"It is said that Shershah after conquering Bengal left some of his army men who originally came from the Punjab side, at Murshidabad and Maldah. This class of people were named after Shershah and were known as Shershahabadi. After some time some Shershahabadias came over to Purnea district. They are all Muslims.

Generally these people are six to seven feet tall and have got well-built physique in contrast to the physique of the average Muslims of Purnea. They are very hardy and strong. From this it appears that they may have originally come from Western India, i.e., the East Punjab and West Pakistan. It is said that they are generally of variable temperament and may even commit murder on slight provocation. From the records of the local police stations (Manihari and Barari thanas) it appears that there are number of criminals among the Shershahabadias....

The Shershahabadi Muslims are found in Purnea district in Bihar. They are scattered all over the district..... It was learnt from Md. Seerajuddin of Banka

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National Commission
for Backward Classes

village that the population of Shershabaidia Muslims in Purnea district is about 7,000. The customs and manners are same among all the Shershabaidas of the district. They claim that they are Seikh Muslims. But the Seikh Muslims do not accept them as such.

....."

8. A copy of the "Findings/Advice" of the Bihar State Commission for Backward Classes on this community was made available to the Bench during the Public Hearing which contains the following facts:-

- (1) The members of the Shershabadi community are mostly illiterates and poor labourers.
- (2) 80% of the population are engaged in agricultural work of which about 75% are landless agricultural labourers and the rest 25% mostly include medium, small and marginal cultivators.
- (3) Those who are engaged in non-agricultural work include masons, rickshaw pullers, tailors, traders and those in other services
- (4) Though the women of the community do not work in the fields, they do some related works at their homes.
- (5) Half of the children of the community do not attend schools but help their parents in their work or graze animals.

9. There was no objection raised during the Public Hearing from those present who were from different sections of society to the proposed Inclusion of "Shershabadi" in the Central List of Backward Classes for Bihar.

AUTHENTICATED

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SECRETARY
Bihar State Commission
for Backward Classes
Patna

IV. FINDINGS

10. From the above material and evidence, it is the Finding of the Bench that Shershabbadi of Bihar constitutes a Socially and Educationally Backward class of citizens and therefore "Shershabbadi" should be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Bihar at Sl.No.126 as follows:-

"126. Shershabbadi"

"126. शेरशाहबादी"

Living with
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A. J. K. K. K.
7.10.98

V. ADVICE OF THE COMMISSION

11. The Commission considered and agreed in full with the above Findings of the Bihar Bench and decided to tender the following Advice to the Central Government under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act, for necessary action by the Central Government under Section 9(2) of the Act:-

"Shershabbadi" be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Bihar at Sl.No. 126, as follows:-

"126. Shershabbadi"

"126. शेरशाहबादी"

12. On account of the unfortunate demise of one of the

A. J. K. K. K.

7

Members Shri Navtej Puadhi on 16.8.98, 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.

Navtej Puadhi
7.10.98

P. S. Krishnan
7.10.98

Ashayam
07.10.98

P. L. Narasimhan
7.10.98

AUTHENTICATED

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Member Secretary
National Commission
for Backward Classes