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सदस्य-साचव
राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग
भारत सरकार
नई दिल्ली - 110 066
MEMBER-SECRETARY
NATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR BACKWARD CLASSES
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW DELHI - 110 066
14. 08. 1998

DO NCBC Advice No. 20-21 Rajasthan/98

Dear Shri Manavalan,

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

- (1) Sirvi as a synonym/sub-caste of Janwa, and
- (2) Bari

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

With Best wishes,

Yours sincerely

(P.S. KRISHNAN)

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

National Commission for Backward Classes.

Rajasthan Bench

Finding

Case: Request for inclusion of Sirvi Caste in the
Central List of Backward Classes for Rajasthan

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Per Shri P.S. Krishnan, Member-Secretary

I Request

1. This case arises from the Request, received in this Commission from Akhil Bhartiya Sirvi Mahasabha, Bilara, Jodhpur for inclusion of the Sirvi Caste/Community in the Central list of Backward Classes for Rajasthan.

II Public Hearing.

2. The two-member Rajasthan bench of the Commission, consisting of Shri P.S. Krishnan. Hon'ble Member-Secretary, NCBC and Shri Navtej Puadhi, Hon'ble Member, NCBC held a Public Hearing at Jaipur on 30.5.1997 inter-alia to examine this Request. At the Public Hearing the State Government was represented by Shri S.K. Dalel, Joint Director and Shri Ramesh Chandra Sharma, Deputy Director in the Directorate of Social

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

elfare. Shri G.D.Garg, Joint-Director represented the Rajasthan State Backward Classes Commission. No representative of the caste/community appeared before the Bench.

III Fact

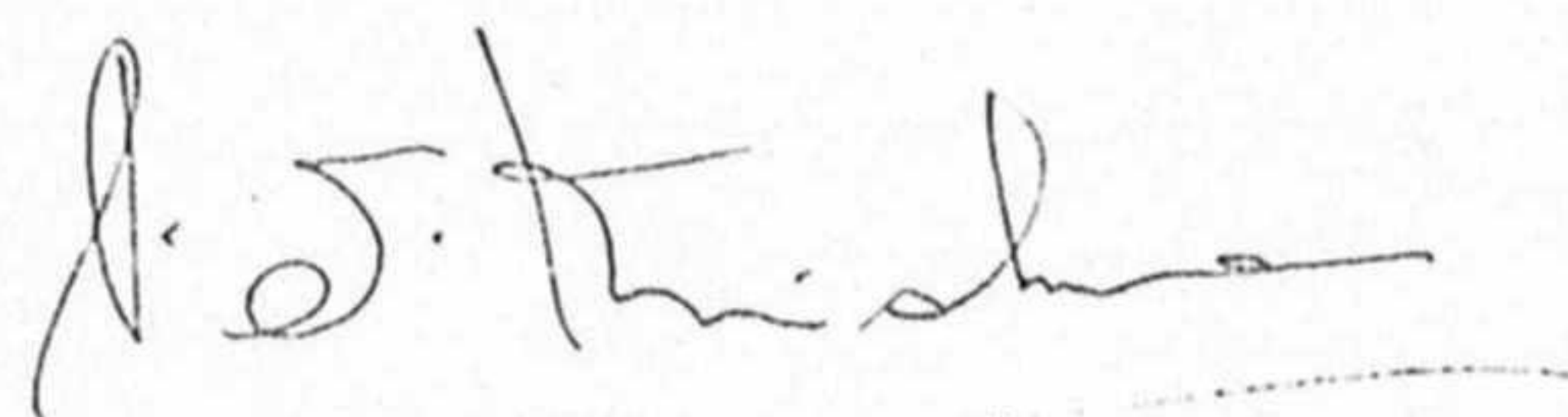
3. At the time when the Expert Committee on Backward Classes prepared the first phase Central List of Backward Classes on the basis of the principle of commonality, i.e., by listing castes common to both the Mandal List for each State and the respective State Lists and when, on the basis of the Expert Committee's Report, the Government of India notified the first phase Central List in 1993, Rajasthan was one of the States which did not have a State list of its own. Therefore no Central List of Backward Classes for Rajasthan was prepared at that stage. It was only after the Supreme Court's Judgement in the Mandal case that the State Government of Rajasthan undertook the preparation of a State List of Backward Classes which was notified by the State Government on 6.8.1994. "Sirvi" is not included in this State List and in the Mandal List and for this reason it is also not included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Rajasthan prepared on the basis of the "principle of commonality" by the Government of India and notified by it on the 19th October, 1994. In a meeting with State Backward Classes Commission on 9.6.98 at Jaipur the Chairperson of that Commission informed the Bench Members that the State Commission has already tendered Advice to the State Government to include the Sirvi caste/community as a synonym/as a sub-caste of the Janwa caste/community in the State list of Backward classes for Rajasthan.

4. The relevant entries in respect Janwa Caste in different lists of Backward Classes for Rajasthan are as follows:-

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(1) State List

"21 Janwa"



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Member Secretary
National Commission
for Backward Classes

(ii) Mandal List

"62 Janwa"

(iii) Central list

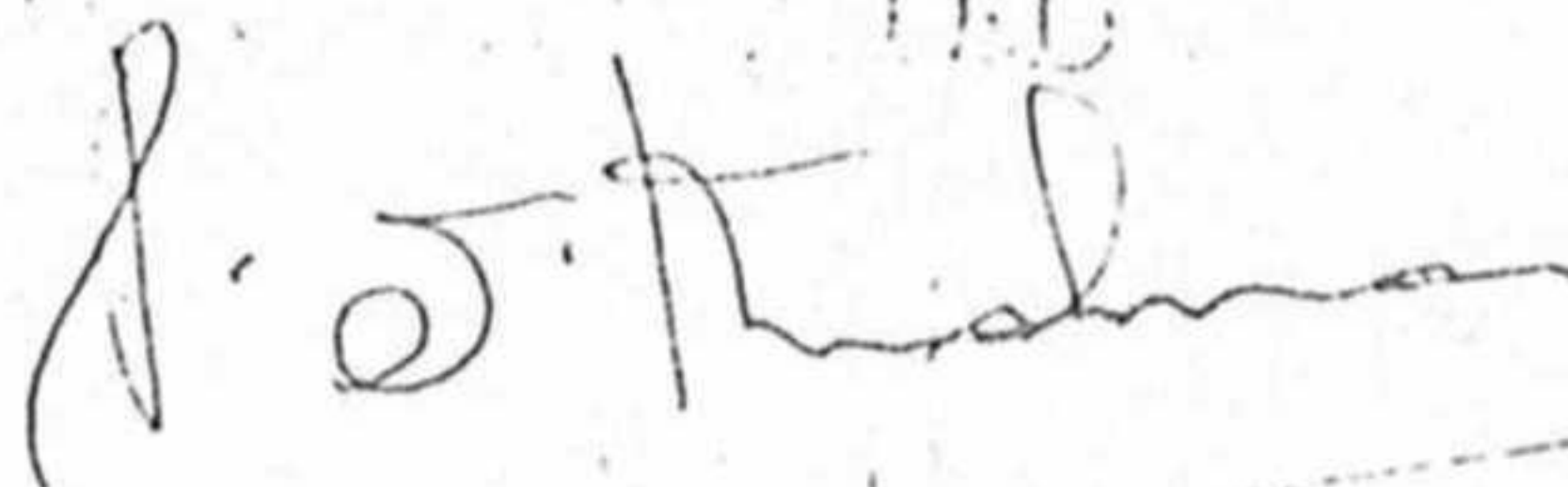
"21 Janwa"

5. The Mahasabha has furnished information in the NCBC questionnaire. According to the Mahasabha, Sirvis are known by the following names--Khardia Sirvi and Janva Sirvi and Chowdhary. The population of the caste in the State is 1.90 lac distributed in the districts of Pali, Jodhpur, Jalore and Udaipur. Janva is included in the State list of Backward classes. According to them Sirvi is included in the M.P. State list of Backward classes.

6. The Mahasabha has also stated that their caste/community is generally regarded as socially backward. They consider the following to be the main reasons for their backwardness:-

- (i) Poor educational standard of the caste.
- (ii) child marriages
- (iii) Girl education is an anathema
- (iv) Agriculture holding poor & mostly dependent on Agriculture manual labour.
- (v) State Govt. job Very poor and Central Servics negligible,

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vi) Socially denigrated.

(vii) Faith in Superstitions.

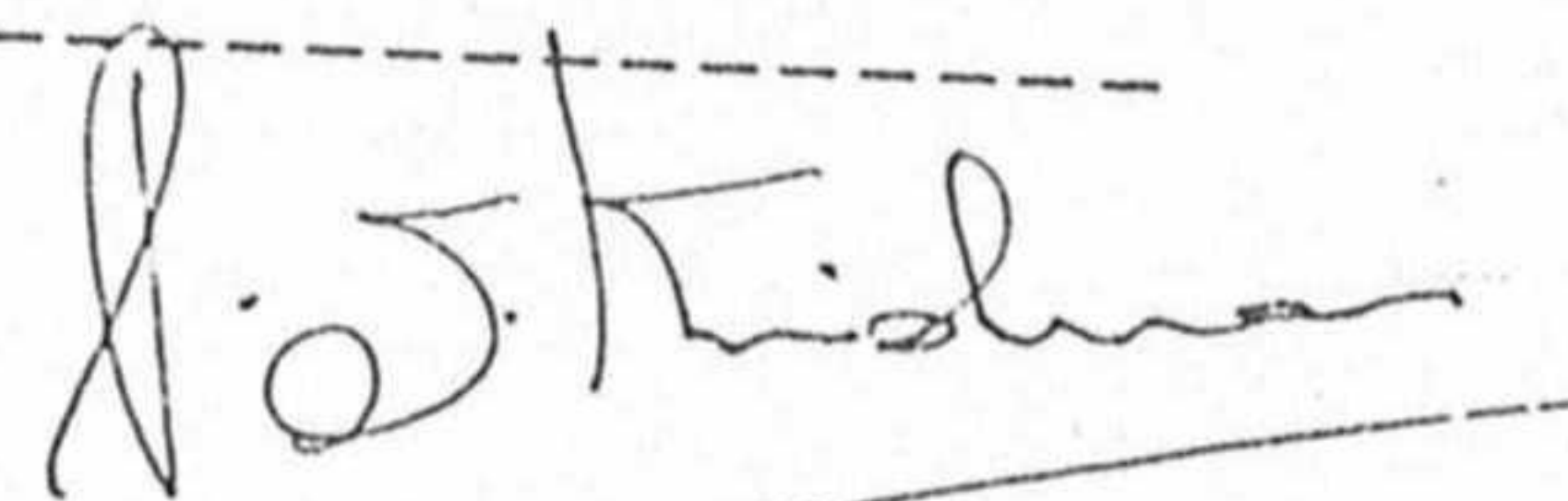
They have admitted that there has been an improvement in their primary education level and a little in higher education in the last twenty years which is almost at par with other backward communities & lower than SCs&STs. Also there has been deterioration in agricultural land holdings which has been reduced to 1-2 acres with the break-up of families. They consider Ganchi, Mali, Khati, Sonar higher than their caste because these castes possess land and are engaged in craft work while Sirvis have small agricultural holdings & Share-Cropping. They consider Janva & Dhakar more or less at their level.

7. The Occupation on which members of the caste/community depend for livelihood are "agriculture, & agriculture labour & other labour" which involve manual labour rendered for wages as well as on own land. Besides they are engaged in a few govt. jobs. In State Govt. Services they hold posts in Group C/Class III-3,200, and Group D/Class IV-150. Besides State Govt. Services a few persons of the caste/community are engaged in the following professional services - Doctors(16), Lawyers(5), Engineers & Architects(15), Chartered Accountants(2). In the Central Govt. Services only 2 persons hold posts in Group B.

8. The Mahasabha has furnished the following data sex wise regarding literacy level of the caste/community.

Sl. No.	Level of Education	No. of Persons		
		Male	Female	Total
(i)	Graduate & above	300	12	312
(ii)	Secondary	800	40	840
(iii)	Middle	2100	75	2175

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Primary	3400	325	3725
Total	6600	452	7052

According to the Mahasabha the percentage of male literacy of the caste is 10% and female literacy 1%.

9. The NCBC Questionnaire gives the approximate percentage of the families of the caste/community which live in Kachha houses 70% and Pucca houses 30%.

10. Munshi Hardy Singh in his book "The Castes of Marwar being (Census Report of 1891)" (Books Treasure, Jodhpur, second edition, 1990, First edition, 1894, p. 48) attests to the existence of Sirvi" caste/community in Marwar state . He classifies this caste/community under the occupational group "Minor Agricultural". He writes "The Sirvis form the chief class of minor agriculturists. ----- There are two chief divisions of Sirvis called Kharria and Jenewa.

The Kharria Sirvis are so called from having their abode originally at Khari-Khabar on the Luni. They are now found in Malwa, Meywar and Marwar. They are stated, says Major General Sir John Malcolm, to be the descendants of twenty four Rajputs who alone survived their Prince Anand Ram, Raja of Kolapoor, when the fortress of that name was taken by stratagem, about Six hundred years ago. These Rajputs were so ashamed at having survived their Prince that they threw aside their swords and shields and dropped the name of the Rajput for ever, taking in its stead that of Sirvi, a derivative of the Rangree word Sir, cultivation thereby intimating they would thence-forward devote themselves to the cultivation of the Soil; and to this day the

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...rvis are found as the best cultivators in Central India. Their skill in ascertaining where to dig well, so as to come speedily to water, is as extraordinary as it is well attested."

11. During the Public hearing those present who were from different sections of the society not only did not object for inclusion of the Sirvi caste in the central list of Backward classes for Rajasthan but also supported it.

IV Findings

12. From the above evidence & ethnographic evidence as well as views of the Rajasthan State Backward Classes commission the bench finds that the Sirvi caste/community is one of the group of the Janwa caste/community which is a peasant caste, whose traditional occupation is agriculture, which involves manual work and that the caste is socially & educationally backward. As seen from the State Commission's view & Munshi Hardyal Singh, Janwa and Sirvi are synonyms or sub-castes of the same caste. Synonyms of an existing entry in the Central list are covered by Para 9 of the Procedural clarifications on the National Commission for Backward Classes "Guidelines for Consideration of Requests for Inclusion and Complaints of Under-inclusion in the Central list of other Backward Classes". The bench is therefore of the view that the Sirvi caste/community should be included in the Central list of Backward Classes for Rajasthan as a synonym of or as a sub-caste with Janwa at the existing entry no. 21 as follows:

"21 Janwa, Sirvi"

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5. The Commission considered & agreed in full with the above findings of the Rajasthan Bench and decided to tender the Advice to the Central Govt. under section 9(1) of the NCBC Act, 1993 for necessary action under section 9(2) of the Act as follows:-

" Sirvi caste/community be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Rajasthan as a Synonym or as a sub-caste with Janwa caste/community in the existing entry no 21 and the amended entry be read as follows:-

"21 Janwa, Sirvi".

Kavita Dhar
6.8.98

P. J. Mishra
5.8.98

R. S. Singh
11.08.98

The Secretary
11.8.98

P. J. Mishra

National Commission for Backward Classes

Rajasthan Bench

Findings

Case:- Request for Inclusion of Bari caste/community in the Central list of Backward Classes for Rajasthan.

Per Shri P.S.Krishnan, Member-Secretary

I. Request

1. This case arises from the Request received by the National Commission for Backward Classes from Shri Ramji Lal Bari, President, Bari Samaj, Alwar (Raj) for inclusion of the Bari caste/community in the Central list of Backward Classes for Rajasthan.

II Public Hearing

2. The two-Member Rajasthan Bench of the Commission, consisting of Shri P.S.Krishnan, Hon'ble Member-Secretary, NCBC and Shri Navtej Puadhi, Hon'ble Member, NCBC held a public Hearing at Jaipur on 30.5.1997 inter alia to examine this Request. At the Public Hearing the State Government was represented by Shri S.K. Dalel, Joint Director and Shri Ramesh Chandra Sharma, Deputy Director in the Directorate of Social Welfare. Shri G.D.Garg, Joint-Director represented the Rajasthan State Backward Classes Commission. No representative of the Samaj or the caste was present.

III Facts

At the time when the Expert Committee on Backward Classes prepared the first phase Central List of Backward Classes on the basis of the principle of commonality, i.e., by listing castes common to both the Mandal List for each State and the respective State Lists

and when, on the basis of the Expert Committee's Report, the Government of India notified the first phase Central List in 1993, Rajasthan was one of the States which did not have a state List of its own. Therefore no Central List of Backward Classes for Rajasthan was prepared at that stage. It was only after the Supreme Court's Judgement in the Mandal case that the State Government of Rajasthan undertook the preparation of a State List of Backward Classes which was notified by the State Government on 6.8.1994. "Bari" is not included in this State List and in the Mandal List and for this reason it is also not included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Rajasthan prepared "on the basis of the principle of commonality" by the Government of India and notified by it on the 19th October, 1994.

4. On the Advice of the State Backward Classes Commission this caste/community has subsequently been included in the State list of Backward Classes & notified by the Govt. of Rajasthan Social Welfare Deptt. Vide notification No. F(II) (125) (2) R&P/SWD/12099 Jaipur dated 15.3.97 at entry No. 14 as a synonym as follows:-

"14 Dhivar, Kahar, Bhoi, Sagarvanshi-Mali, Keer, Mehra, Mallah, Bari."

5. The Bari Samaj has stated that the population of Bari caste/community in Rajasthan State is approximately 5000-6000 whose hereditary occupation is "to make utensils from leaf" i.e. "leaf plate-making." Nowadays also some people continue to do the same work. The caste is educationally, economically & socially backward. There is no IAS, IPS, RAS Officer or class I in State services. Hardly a few persons work as Asstts & in class III & IV posts. Their hereditary occupation of "leaf-plate making" is diminishing. They have to move in search of other occupations. For this reason they could not get education to their children & women.

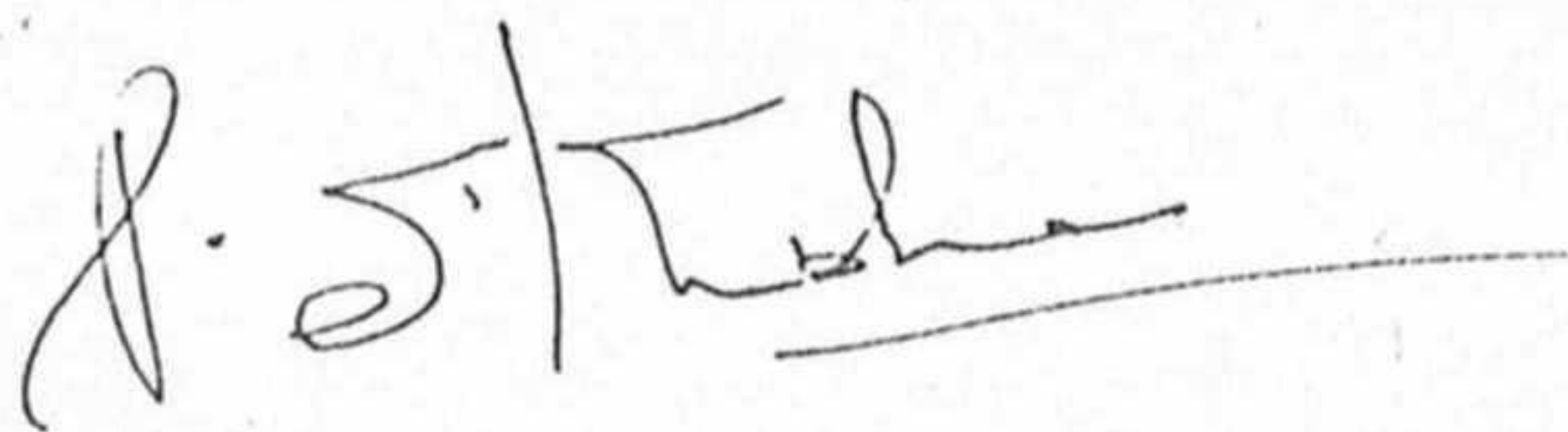
6. Munshi Hardyal Singh in his book "The castes of Marwar-being (Census Report of 1891)" (Books Treasure, Jodhpur, second edition, 1990, p.207, First edition, 1894,) attests to the existence of the "Bari" caste/community in the erstwhile Marwar State. He writes".....They properly form a class of personal attendants though their present occupation is to make plates or cups

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of leaves stitched together with little wooden pegs for the purpose of holding food.....

The Bari act as servants to Rajas and chiefs, and as they are given leavings of food by their masters by turn or bari, they are called Baridars. In Marwar, they claim payments on two special occasions. Firstly, on the birth of an heir to the throne as says Col. Walter, an impression of the Child's foot is taken by a Bari on a piece of cloth with safron, and exhibited to the aristocracy of Marwar, who reward the Bari liberally for the sight. Secondly, on the demise of any of the hereditary nobles of the State, when the Maharaja pays a visit of condolence to the family of the deceased, the cloth spread for the reception of the Maharaja is generally given to the Bari."

7. During the Public Hearing those present who were from different sections of the Society not only did not object to the inclusion of Bari caste/community in the Central list of Backward Classes for Rajasthan but also supported it.



for J.S.

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IV. Findings

8. From the above evidence the findings clearly emerge that the Bari caste/community is a socially backward class. This caste/community falls under the "Fast Track" category as it is, in terms of the caste system, identified/linked with the hereditary occupation of "leaf-plate makers" which has been covered by the guideline 2(e) of the NCBC's "Guidelines for Consideration in the Central List of Backward Classes". Therefore, this caste/community should be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Rajasthan. But there is no basis to hold it to be a synonym of Dhivar etc, which are castes of fishermen or castes with water based occupation like ferrying. The traditional occupational profile of Bari marks it out as a different caste. Therefore it should be included as a separate entry, viz

"59 Bari"

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P. S. Krishnan

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P. S. Krishnan

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

V. Advice of the Commission

9. The Commission considered and agreed in full with the findings of the Rajasthan Bench & decided to tender the Advice to the Central Government under Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act, 1993 for necessary action under section 9(2) of the Act as follows:-
"Bari" caste/community be included in the Central list of Backward Classes for Rajasthan as follows:-

"59 Bari".

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Ashtekar
11.08.98

P. S. Krishnan
11.8.98

P. S. Krishnan

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