

983 OF 2,633 SUB-CASTES HAVE ZERO REPRESENTATION

Jobs, admissions: 97% of Central OBC quota benefits go to just under 25% of its castes

Need to sub-categorise as per population, says Commission, to ensure a more level playing field

SHYAMLAL YADAV
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

ALMOST 97 PER CENT of all jobs and admissions reserved at the Central level for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) has gone to just under a quarter of all sub-castes classified as OBCs. As many as 983 OBC communities – 37 per cent of the total – have zero representation which means not a single job, not a single seat. And just 10 communities of OBCs

have availed of as much as 24.95 per cent of jobs and admissions.

Sources said the groups that are among the prime beneficiaries includes Yadav, Kurmi, Jat (Jats of Rajasthan except those of Bharatpur and Dholpur district are in Central OBC list), Saini, Thevar, Ezhava and Vokkaliga.

This skew in OBC benefits is the key finding in a consultation paper prepared by the Commission to Examine Sub-Categorisation of OBCs, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

SHARE OF OBC RESERVATION

| Number of OBC sub-castes | Percentage of benefit availed |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 10 | 24.95 |
| 38 | 25.04 |
| 102 | 25 |
| 506 | 22.32 |
| 994 | 2.68 |
| 983 | 0 |
| Total 2,633 | 100 |

The commission, appointed in October 2017 – its term was extended last week to May 31, 2019 – analysed data of 1.3 lakh Central jobs given under OBC quota over the last five years and OBC admissions to Central higher education institutions, including universities, IITs, NITs, IIMs and AIIMS, over the last three years.

Data also reveals that the share of several states in OBC quotas is much higher than their share in the population of India – there are many states with much

lower share in benefits than their share in the population. In effect, the inequity across states and Union Territories is almost as acute as across different castes and communities when it comes to OBC quota benefits.

As many as 994 OBC sub-castes have a total representation of only 2.68 per cent in recruitment and admissions, sources said.

The Commission, headed by former Chief Justice of Delhi High

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Verma: CJI

and "under all circumstances, they must go to the committee... Transfer here does not mean transfer in service jurisprudence where it may be from post to post. It has to be understood as makeover the right or responsibility to another".

The CJI also sought to know "if there is an exigency, can the court appoint a person to discharge the functions of the Director". Nariman replied that this could be done since the court was, in his view, the final interpreter of the Constitution.

Referring to arguments that Verma continued to be the Director, Nariman said: "I (Verma) may put on my visiting card that I am CBI Director, but I am no more a CBI Director than I (Nariman) am."

are in Cong

dations across parties in both Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Vasundhara's sister is Madhya Pradesh Sports Minister Yashodhara Rajee Scindia.

"My mother was revered by everyone across the political spectrum. It's a legacy I am proud of. Expectations were very high. You have to work doubly hard. Today's politics has changed by 180 degrees. The yardstick to judge me is very different. Today's generations don't have any memories of her. Your performance and work gets you votes, not the name," said Yashodhara.

Dynastic politics is in its infancy in Chhattisgarh, a state carved out of Madhya Pradesh in 2000. In the outgoing assembly of 90 lawmakers, nine are dynasts — three from BJP's 49 MLAs and six from Congress's 39, including Amit Jogi who was expelled from the party last year and is now part of his father Ajit Jogi's JCC.

the lower order. As the end neared, he punished some good deliveries too before a run-out brought an end to his innings, and the day. And the name "Steve", now a reminder of the gritty Australian legend Steve Waugh, sat comfortably on his shoulders. But then, he would still insist: "Call me Pujara."

Central OBC quota benefits

Court G. Rohini, has sent these findings to all Chief Secretaries and State OBC Commissions for their views.

To correct this skew and ensure a more level playing field, the Commission has proposed to "sub-categorise" the OBCs. In other words, divide the Central quota of reservation among different sub-categories on the basis of their relative all-India population of the castes and communities placed in these sub-categories.

While reservation in jobs for OBCs was implemented in 1993, reservations in admissions in Central government institutions (both 27 per cent) was implemented during the UPA 1 government in 2006.

The job data covers recruitment in several Government departments including Railways, Department of Posts, several Central Police Forces, many Central public sector enterprises, public sector banks, insurance organisations and many Central services and All India Services like Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS) and Central Secretariat services.

A state Chief Secretary told The Indian Express: "We have received the report and are

preparing our comments."

Sources say that the data of recruitment covers the recruitment of last five years in Railways, Department of Posts, several Central Police Forces, many central public sector enterprises, many public sector banks, insurance organisations and many Central services and All India Services like Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Indian Police Services (IPS) and central secretariat services in five years. Similarly, it covers almost all of the admissions taken place based on OBC reservation in these institutions in last three years.

Sources said that the Commission is concerned that none of the available sources provides a reliable estimate of the population of individual castes and communities included in the Central list. Interestingly, while 10 states/UTs have adopted some kind of sub-categorisation for their OBC lists, none of those state/UTs seems to have proposed any clearly articulated criterion for placing a community in one category or the other.

The Commission has told states that it would be improper and unjust to use ascribed or perceived social status, traditional occupation and religion as criteria for sub-categorisation.

Said an official in a state OBC commission who has received the report: "The key idea is not to create a new hierarchy among OBCs but a more level playing field for all keeping in mind their numbers, their backwardness and their regional spread. How we do this without alienating existing beneficiaries is the challenge that we face."

Key statistics panel revised

UPA growth up

present at the discussion where Niti Aayog rejected CSO's analysis, said: "Niti Aayog took just one look at the growth rates which were going higher after 2004-05 and said, 'We can't allow it'. There was a question on the robustness of relationships, for example, between MCA (Ministry of Company Affairs) and RBI data. There are ways of getting around this."

The back-series data released by Niti Aayog and the CSO on November 28 said the economy grew an average 6.7 per cent during the two UPA terms, lower than the 7.4 per cent average growth rate during the first four years of the current NDA government.

When contacted, present Chief Statistician of India, Pravin Srivastava, told The Indian Express: "Every (GDP estimation) exercise is an evolutionary process. The methodology we used is consistent with SNA 2008. It is not growth rate that you rework; what you do is essentially recalibrate the data with contribution of different sectors." SNA 2008, or the System of National Accounts 2008, is the latest version of international statistical standard for the national accounts adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission.

Asked whether he had worked on the earlier back-series data which the Niti Aayog rejected, Srivastava said: "It would not be fair to say that. Given the absence of data, there was a need to evolve on it."

Earlier in August, an NSC-appointed committee had stated that the economy grew at a faster pace under the UPA government from 2004-05 to 2013-14. The average GDP at market prices was 8.37 per cent during UPA-I (2004-05 to 2008-09), and 7.69 per cent during UPA-II (2009-10 to 2013-14), the Committee had said. This was criticised by the current Niti Aayog chief Rajiv Kumar as being "neither here nor there."



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CS & Policy

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Panel mulls survey to find out OBC population

Needs Fresh Data To Ensure That Sub-Categorisation Will Be Credible

Subodh Ghildiyal
@timesgroup.com

Rohini panel to focus on 1K communities which reaped no benefits in 25 years

The Rohini commission is set to train its focus on 1,000 communities in the OBC list which have not received any benefit of reservation in education and employment since the implementation of the Mandal commission report. Headed by Justice G Rohini and comprising expert member JK Bajaj, the panel has found startling details on how the Mandal reservation benefits have been availed by different communities over 25 years. An analysis of data from major central employers and educational institutes has found that 25% of total quotas have been cornered by just 10 communities while another quarter of benefits have been availed by 38 communities.

Subodh Ghildiyal | *THE*

New Delhi: The national panel on sub-categorisation of OBCs is contemplating a national survey to determine the population of backward communities in the national count, an exercise that would be one of its kind in recent years.

The national commission, headed by Justice G Rohini, is learnt to have initiated a discussion on the issue. Sources said the consultations are focused on the design of survey so that the complicated exercise could be foolproof.

The push for OBC headcount comes amid growing realisation that sub-categorisation — differentiating the “forward” among the OBCs from the rest of the category — would not be considered credible if it is not based on contemporary data on OBC population and, more importantly, on the relative share of communities within the Mandal list.

Sub-categorisation is viewed as a panacea to the problem of inequitable distribution of reservation benefits within the Mandal class, with

complaints that certain strong castes have cornered the quota benefits at the cost of their weaker brethren. It seeks to divide the central OBC list into sub-groups of communities at par on socio-economic parameters, with 27% reservation quota to be divided among them in proportion to their share in the OBC population.

Initially, the panel on sub-categorisation, set up by the Narendra Modi government in 2017, felt it could clinch the process without an estimate of backward population.

The country had its last caste census in 1931 which was used by the Mandal commission to arrive at the estimate of OBC population. The UPA ordered an OBC headcount through the “rural poverty survey” that came to be known as “socio-economic caste census” (SECC). However, the Modi government junked the caste dimension of the SECC

by not constituting an expert panel to analyse the data.

The Rohini commission too kept away from the SECC during its first year, and felt it could do without such an exercise. However, it seems to have been nudged into a rethink following its hearings with experts and stakeholders. While most representations to the commission have backed sub-categorisation, the objections have principally revolved around the argument that it cannot be done without the OBC data.

“The commission’s report needs to be made foolproof. Lack of data is the biggest hurdle,” a source said.

In-house experts, it is learnt, are mulling what kind of headcount should be carried out. While a key functionary said it could be a “sample survey”, another added “such an exercise would have to be a large-scale survey”.

Updates

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