

Regarding need to set up a Welfare Board for Brahmins-laid

DR. T. R. PAARIVENDHAR (PERAMBALUR): Brahmin is a varna as well as a caste within Hindu society. The traditional occupation of Brahmins is that of priesthood at Hindu temples or at socio-religious ceremonies, and the performing of rite of passage rituals such as solemnizing a wedding and other ceremonies/functions with hymns and prayers. In practice, Indian texts suggest that some Brahmins historically also became agriculturalists, warriors, traders, and had also held other occupations in the Indian subcontinent.

According to 2007 reports, Brahmins in India are about 5% of the total population. The percentage of population may vary from State to State relative to the total Hindus of respective States. According to the Center for the Study of Developing Societies, in 2004, about 65% of Brahmin households in India earned less than \$100 a month compared to other castes/communities in the country.

In the present economic scenario, the Brahmins are unable to cope up with various problems and demands like reservation of 10% under EWS for admission in school/colleges, employments, reservation of some parliamentary constituencies exclusively to them to contest in the general election in all State etc. So, a Welfare Board is necessary and must for Brahmin community to take care of their welfare with higher authorities and for fulfillment of their demands.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to take necessary action at the earliest to set up a Brahmin's Welfare Board by Union Government as well as by every State Government on the lines of Social Welfare Board and other Minority Welfare Board/Commission.