

Regarding vacant posts of SC,ST and OBC categories in the Central Institutes of Higher Education

DR. GUMMA THANUJA RANI (ARAKU): Sir, despite mandated reservations, there is a prolonged issue of insufficient recruitment of faculty from Other Backward Classes (OBC), Scheduled Castes (SC), and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in the Central institutes of higher education. The Government data reveals a persistent and substantial gap in faculty positions within the reserved categories.

In 2021, 6,074 faculty positions remained vacant across 42 Government-run universities, with 75 per cent falling under the reserved categories. A recent Parliamentary data on 1st August, 2023, revealed that only four per cent of professors recruited belonged to the OBC category. Data for an RTI reply in 2023 also exposed faculty shortages in SC, ST, and OBC categories in several departments of IIT-Delhi, with 14 departments having no faculty from SC or ST, 24 departments lacking any SC faculty, 15 departments lacking any ST faculty, and nine departments having no faculty from OBC.

The Central Universities, including IITs, mandated to follow the reservation policies allocating 15 per cent to SCs, 7.5 per cent to STs, and 27 per cent to OBCs in faculty appointments and admissions, display a clear mismatch between the Government equity goals and the actual recruitment outcomes.

12.36 hrs (Shrimati Sandhya Ray *in the Chair*)

I urge the Government to take immediate corrective action. Initiatives like intensified special recruitment drives, rigorous implementation monitoring, and forward-looking measures such as Government-sponsored preparatory programs for aspiring faculty are essential.