

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:823
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2000
RESERVATION OF SEATS FOR SCS IN MAHARASHTRA ASSEMBLY
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a): whether the Government are aware that 36 assembly seats and 6 Lok Sabha seats were reserved for Scheduled Castes in Maharashtra which were reduced to 18 and 3 respectively later on;
- (b): if so, the reasons therefor; (
- (c): whether the Government have received representations for revival of reservation of 36 assembly seats and 6 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra for Scheduled Castes;
- (d): if so, the details thereof; and
- (e): the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE & COMPANY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The present provision of number of seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and in the House of the People from that State are on the basis of the delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies in the State done by the Delimitation Commission under the provisions of the Delimitation Act, 1972 and by the Election Commission under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, 1976. Under the existing constitutional provisions, as were subsequently made by the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976, no change in the number of seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes is permissible until the relevant figures of the first census taken after the year 2000 have been published.

(c) & (d) The Government has received a number of representations from the Members of Parliament and others, in the past, raising the demand for increase in the number of seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes in the House of the People and Legislative Assembly of the State of Maharashtra.

(e) The Government has recently decided to extend the constitutional embargo on delimitation of electoral constituencies till the year 2026, to undertake limited delimitation contained within the boundaries of the States and to rationalize the constituencies reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes on the basis of the 1991 census and accordingly a Bill, namely, the Constitution (Ninety-first Amendment) Bill, 2000 is likely to be introduced in the Lok Sabha during the current session of Parliament itself in this regard. This process may probably partially take care of the demands for increase in the number of seats as raised in these representations.