

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3314
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2011
SUPPORTING ECONOMICALLY BACKWARD CLASSES
M.Thambidurai Dr.

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any suggestion from the Planning Commission's expert panel with regard to support from the Government for Economically Backward Classes in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the details of suggestions/recommendations of the said expert panel; and
- (d) the time by which a decision will be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a)&(b): Yes Madam. The Planning Commission constituted Working Group on "Empowerment of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Nomadic, Semi Nomadic and Denotified Tribes" in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The Working Group Report inter-alia suggested for the support from the Government for Economically Backward Classes in the country. The recommendations/suggestions of the Working Group are under consideration of the Planning Commission.

(c): The details of suggestions/recommendations of the Working Group on "Empowerment of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Nomadic, Semi Nomadic and Denotified Tribes" are enclosed.

(d): Appropriate decision will be taken in the matter at the time of finalization of Twelfth Five Year Plan 2012-17.

Annexure

Recommendations of the Twelfth Five year Plan (2012-17) Working Group on "Empowerment of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs), EBCs and Nomadic, Semi- nomadic and Denotified Tribes":

Goals for the Twelfth Five Year Plan

Educational Empowerment

(i) Implementation of New National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for OBCs to provide 360 number of scholarships with an outlay of Rs. 65 crore (sharing on 70:30 basis for OBC and EBC students).

(ii) Implementation of New Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme to provide 10000 scholarships with an outlay of Rs. 750 crore (sharing on 70:30 basis for OBC and EBC students).

(iii) Implementation of New Central Sector Scheme of Free Coaching for OBC Students to provide coaching to 165000 beneficiaries with an outlay of Rs. 500 crore (sharing on 70:30 basis for OBC and EBC students).

Economic Empowerment

The Working Group further recommends that NBCFDC may also extend its services to the EBCs for which the Memorandum/Articles of Association of the Corporation may be amended to include EBCs as a target group. The Working Group recommends that an outlay of Rs. 2000 crores may be provided, out of which Rs. 200 crore will be for the EBC sector.

Social Empowerment

(i) Legal measures may be taken to categorize OBCs into two sub-groups – Backward Class(BC) and Most Backward Class (MBC) – on the basis of their social, economic and educational status.

(ii) Reservation for SEBC may be considered in disinvested PSUs. This may be made a part of the MOUs.

(iii) A consultative and convergence mechanism needs to be set up at National, State and District levels, with representation from various stake-holders, which will work towards convergence and monitor the implementation of the programmes for OBCs, EBCs and DNTs.

Economically Backward Classes (EBCS)

The Government had set up a Commission for Economically Backward Classes in 2004. The Commission has submitted its report to the Government on 22nd July, 2010.

It is stated that once criteria is adopted by the Government to define EBCs, the following interventions would become necessary for them:

Programme of Educational empowerment similar to those presently existing for the OBC students may also be introduced for EBC students, namely,

(i) Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship

(ii) Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship

(iii) Hostels for EBC Boys and Girls

(iv) In addition a scheme of grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations working for Economic Empowerment through skill development of EBCs may be introduced.

Broadly, one third of the allocation meant for OBCs for the above schemes may be also made for EBCs. Thus an amount of Rs. 52852 crores would be required for the above purpose, as follows:

(i) Pre-Matric Scholarship - Rs. 29583 crore

(ii) Post-Matric Scholarship - Rs. 23000 crore

(iii) Hostels for EBC Boys and Girls - Rs. 233 crore

(iv) Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the Welfare of EBCs - Rs. 36 crore

In addition, a component would be provided for EBC students in the proposed new schemes of National Overseas Scholarship, RGNF and Free Coaching for OBCs as mentioned above.

The Memorandum of Association of NBCFDC may also be amended, to extend concessional loans to EBCs for undertaking economic activities. A separate amount of Rs. 200 crore has been provided for the purpose for NBCFDC.

Recommendations to be implemented by the other Ministries

(i) Creches: Creches should be set up on priority in areas where OBCs, EBCs and DNTs reside to enable working women to keep their children.

(ii) Dakshta Prashikshan Vidyalayas: Opening of Dakshta Prashikshan Vidyalayas (Skill Training Schools) preferably at Block levels with an emphasis on vocational training to improve skills as a major measure for educational and economic development of OBCs, EBCs and DNTs.

Recommendations not included in schemes

(i) Availability and improved access to high-quality education, information, technologies and vocational training. This recommendation may be examined by the Ministry of Labour.

(ii) Checking malnutrition and providing insured health services. This recommendation may be examined by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Deptt. of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance.

(iii) More equitable distribution of, secured access to, and better management of, natural resources and common property resources particularly their living environment and ecological linkages. This recommendation may be examined by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(iv) Sensitisation of the administration to problems of weaker sections. This recommendation may be examined by the Deptt. of Personal and Training.

(v) A "bottom up" approach should be followed to ensure welfare measures reaching the neediest among OBCs. In this approach, first priority should be given to poorest individuals and families. This recommendation may be examined by all Ministries implementing programmes for OBCs.