

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4636
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2013
POPULATION OF BACKWARD CLASSES
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Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether data specifying the population of backward classes has not been enumerated in the census;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) the manner in which the Government prepares welfare and development schemes for the backward classes in the absence of such data; and
- (d) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI P. BALRAM NAIK)

(a) & (b): The Office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India conducts decadal Population Census wherein data of all persons living in India at the time of Census taking, including those belonging to Backward classes are collected without any omission and duplication. However, only those castes and tribes are enumerated separately, which are specifically notified as Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes as per Presidential Order under the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 amended from time to time. So far, it has been the policy of the Government of India not to enumerate castes other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the decadal Census since independence. Accordingly, the enumeration of Castes including Other Backward Classes/Backward Classes other than SCs and STs has not been done in any of the decadal Censuses since 1951 Census.

However, Government of India has now decided to conduct a combined survey to enumerate caste along with Socio Economic profile called 'Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC)' across the country in a phased manner.

(c) & (d): Having recognized that educational and economic support for backward classes has not been adequate, Government has taken initiatives for improving the socio-economic conditions of the backward classes by improving their access to education and training in skills. Various Schemes namely, Pre-Matric/Post-Matric Scholarships, Construction of Hostels and assistance to Voluntary Organizations, are being implemented for the welfare of backward classes, included in the Central/State/UT Lists of Other Backward Classes.