

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3169
ANSWERED ON:11.02.2014
ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO OBCS
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Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the efforts being made for the development of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) have been adversely affected due to inadequate allocation of funds in comparison to their population in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto indicating the percentage and total population of OBCs in the country;
- (c) the funds allocated for their development during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps being taken to ensure adequate allocation of funds for the development of the OBCs?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI PORIKA BALRAM NAIK)

(a) & (b) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is implementing following schemes for the welfare of OBCs:

- (i) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-matric Scholarships for OBC students:
- (ii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post-matric Scholarships for OBC students:
- (iii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Construction of Hostels for OBC boys and girls;
- (iv) Central Sector Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of OBCs.

However, due to budgetary constraint, in practice, it has not been possible for the Central Government to provide assistance for scholarship to all eligible students under the Scholarship Schemes for OBCs. Therefore, funds are released to States/UT Administrations on notional allocation basis with reference to their population from the year 2008-09, and the State/UT Administrations are requested to send proposals within their notional allocation. The States are however free to supplement their expenditure under the schemes from the State plan allocation. In case, some savings become available to the Ministry towards the end of financial year, additional amounts are also released to States, projecting a higher demand than their notional allocation.

In the decadal Census conducted by the office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, 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. Accordingly, the enumeration of Castes including Other Backward Classes/Backward Classes other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has not been done in any of the decadal Census since 1951. As per Mandal Commission's Report (1980), OBC population was 52%. As per NSSO Report (2004-05), the OBC population has been estimated at 40%. As such no authentic data of the population of the OBCs is available.

(c) & (d) The state-wise funds allocation under various schemes implemented by this Ministry for the welfare of OBCs in the country during the last three years are given as Annexure.

This Ministry has been taking up the issue of increase in fund allocation with the Planning Commission from time to time. As a result of sustained efforts of the Ministry, the allocation under Pre-matric Scholarship has been raised from Rs.50 crore to Rs.150 crore for 2013-14 and for Post-matric Scholarship from Rs.625 crore to Rs.900 crore for 2013-14