

an>

Title: Need to create a separate Ministry for the welfare of Other Backward Classes.

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL (MIRZAPUR): Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, earlier called the Ministry of Welfare from 1985 till 1998 looked after the matters relating to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Minorities. In course of time, separate Ministries were created for the welfare of OBCs constituting more than 55% of the country's total population. There is simply a Backward Classes Division in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment that looks after the policy, planning and implementation of programmes relating to social and economic empowerment of OBCs. It also looks after matters relating to two institutions set up for the welfare of OBCs namely, the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) and the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC). It has been sadly observed that in the absence of a distinct Ministry, the 27% reservation policy for OBCs in educational institutions and government jobs as advised by the Mandal Commission report has also suffered in its implementation. There is a long pending demand among the OBC masses for the creation of a separate Ministry at the Centre.

I therefore urge upon the Hon'ble Prime Minister to pay heed to their demand and do justice to the OBC People.