



Extension to OBC Sub-Categorisation Commission

Why in News

Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved a **six-month extension** to the commission appointed to examine [sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes](#) (OBCs), up to 31st January 2022.

- This is the **eleventh extension for the commission**, which was initially due to submit its report in March 2018.

Key Points

▪ About:

- It will enable the Commission to **submit a comprehensive report on the issue of sub-categorization of OBCs**, after consultation with various stakeholders.
- Its **objectives** include working out a mechanism, criteria, norm and parameters through a scientific approach for sub-categorisation within the OBCs and identifying the respective castes or communities or sub-castes or synonyms in the Central List of OBCs and classifying them into their respective sub-categories.

▪ Commission:

- Also called Rohini Commission, constituted under **Article 340 of the Constitution** with the approval of the President on 2nd October 2017.
- It had been constituted **to complete the task of sub-categorising 5000-odd castes in the central OBC list** so as to ensure more equitable distribution of opportunities in central government jobs and educational institutions.
- In 2015, the [National Commission for Backward Classes \(NCBC\)](#) had recommended that OBCs should be categorised into **extremely backward classes, more backward classes** and **backward classes**.
 - NCBC has the **authority to examine complaints and welfare measures** regarding socially and educationally backward classes.

▪ Work Done:

- It has met **representatives of state governments**, state backward classes commissions, community associations etc. apart from [obtaining caste-wise data of OBCs](#) in higher educational institutions and recruits in central departments, public sector banks and financial institutions.
- Earlier this year the commission **proposed to divide OBCs into four subcategories** numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4 and **split the 27% into 2, 6, 9 and 10%, respectively**.
- It also recommended **complete digitisation of all OBC records** and a **standardised system of issuing OBC certificates**.

▪ Possible Outcomes:

- The commission may make recommendations which will benefit the communities in the existing list of OBCs which have not been able to get any major benefit of the OBCs reservation scheme for appointment in central government posts and for admission in

central government educational institutions.

Article 340 of the Indian Constitution

- The President may by order appoint a Commission consisting of such persons as he thinks **fit to investigate the conditions of socially and educationally backward classes** within the territory of India and the difficulties under which they labour and to make recommendations as to the steps that should be taken by the Union or any State to remove such difficulties.
- A Commission **so appointed shall investigate the matters referred to them** and present to the President a report setting out the facts as found by them and making **such recommendations** as they think proper.
- The President shall **cause a copy of the report** so presented together with a memorandum explaining the action taken thereon to be laid before each House of Parliament.

OBC Reservation

- The **Kalelkar Commission, set up in 1953**, was the **first to identify backward classes other than the Scheduled Castes (SCs)** and Scheduled Tribes (STs) at the national level.
- The **Mandal Commission Report, 1980** estimated the **OBC population at 52% and classified 1,257 communities** as backward.
 - It recommended increasing the existing quotas, which were only for SC/ST, from 22.5% to 49.5% to include the OBCs.
- **The central government reserved 27%** of seats in union civil posts and services for OBCs [Article 16(4)]. The quotas were subsequently enforced in central government educational institutions [Article 15 (4)].
 - In 2008, the **Supreme Court** directed the central government to **exclude the creamy layer (advanced sections) among the OBCs**.
- The **102nd Constitution Amendment Act, 2018** provided constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC), which was previously a statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Source: PIB

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