

The draft National Policy was circulated to State Governments seeking their comments. The Policy was also placed on the website of this Ministry for information of the general public and feedback, if any. The draft Policy will be finalized after the process of consultation with Central Ministries/Departments and other stakeholders is completed.

Inclusion of more castes into SC/ST list

2924. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government had received proposals from various States for inclusion of some more categories into the SC/ST list during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the detailed norms for inclusion of some categories/castes into the SC/ST list;

(d) whether Government proposes to include some such castes into the list; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI PORIKA BALRAM NAIK): (a) and (b) State-wise details of proposals received for inclusion of communities in the list of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes during the last two years are as follows:

State	No. of proposals	
	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes
Assam	-	2
Bihar	3	1
Chhattishgarh	1	2
Punjab	1	-
Kerala	1	-
Karnataka	1	-
West Bengal	1	2

(c) to (e) The criteria followed for inclusion of a community in the list of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes is as under:

Scheduled Castes

Extreme social, educational and economic backwardness arising out of traditional practice of untouchability.

Scheduled Tribes

Indication of primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness of contact with community at large and backwardness.

None of the proposals mentioned in part (a) and (b) of the reply has yet become eligible for inclusion in the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, as per Modalities approved in June, 1999 as amended in June, 2002.

Schemes for upliftment of OBCs

2925. SHRI RANBIR SINGH PARJAPATI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of schemes formulated and implemented by Government for the upliftment of Other Backward Classes (OBCs);
- (b) how many families belonging to OBC are Below Poverty Line;
- (c) the action taken by Government to bring them above poverty line; and
- (d) how many OBC girls and boys in Haryana are school dropouts and the steps taken by Government to educate them to make them self-dependent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) The following Schemes are implemented by this Ministry for the upliftment of Other Backward Classes (OBCs):

- (i) Pre-Matric Scholarship to the students belonging to OBCs;
- (ii) Post-Matric Scholarship to the students belonging to OBCs;
- (iii) Construction of Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls; and
- (iv) Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for the welfare of OBCs.

(b) to (d) The above schemes are implemented for the socio-economic and educational empowerment of OBCs. The data on number of families Below Poverty Line and the number of school dropouts in Haryana are not maintained centrally.