

at least in proportion to the Scheduled Castes (SC) population. Guidelines on formulation, implementation and monitoring of SCSP issued by the Planning Commission *inter-alia*, require concerned Central Ministries/Departments and States/UTs to earmark funds under SCSP from the Plan outlay, at least in proportion to the percentage of SC population in the Country/State/UT.

The objective of the SCSP is to bridge the gap between Scheduled Castes and others through accelerating the development of SCs by securing to them:-

- (i) Human resource development by enhancing their access to education and health services;
- (ii) Enhancing quality of life by providing basic amenities to SC individuals or SC households;
- (iii) Reduction in poverty and unemployment, creation of productive assets and income generating opportunities.

(b) Scheduled Castes have been specified under Article 341 of the Constitution, and are eligible to the benefits provided under various Schemes. 15.62% of the population of Madhya Pradesh consists of Scheduled Castes. Database of the SC beneficiaries under the State's SCSP is not maintained centrally by the Central Government.

Revision of OBC list

3174. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Section 11 of National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) Act, 1993 mandates revision of list of OBCs once in every ten years;
- (b) if so, is it a fact that the list has not been revised over the last more than 20 years, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) what efforts the Ministry would make to revise the Other Backward Classes (OBC) list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) Yes. As per Section 11(1) of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) Act, 1993 the Central Government may at any time, and shall, at the expiration of ten years from the coming into force of this Act and every succeeding period of ten year thereafter, undertake revision of the lists with a view to excluding from such lists those classes who have ceased to be backward classes or for including in such lists new backward classes.

(b) Yes. The NCBC could not carry out decadal review in the absence of the availability of the requisite data from the States/Union Territories.

(c) It was decided that the exercise of undertaking decadal review may be commenced after the results of the Below Poverty Line (BPL)-cum-Caste Census is available.