

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1067
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.03.2017**

SEPARATE MINISTRY FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

1067. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether more than fifty per cent of population in the country belongs to backward classes;
- (b) whether there is a need to have separate legislation for backward classes on the lines of legislation for SC/ST;
- (c) if so, what steps Government is taking therefor;
- (d) whether backward class unions have also been demanding for a separate Ministry for themselves;
- (e) if so, whether there is any proposal to have a separate Ministry for backward classes; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI KRISHAN PAL GURJAR)**

(a): Data on backward classes are not separately collected in Census conducted by the office of Registrar General of India. However, as per National Sample Survey Office's (NSSO) 62nd round survey report published in September, 2008, the OBC population was estimated at 40.2%.

(b) & (c): A statutory Act namely the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993 is already in existence since 1993. As per Section 9(1) of the NCBC Act, the Commission shall examine requests for inclusion of any class of citizens as a backward class in the lists and hear complaints of over-inclusion or under-inclusion of any backward class in such lists and tender such advice to the Central Government as it deems appropriate.

(d) to (f) There have been sporadic demands from various Quarters for creation of a separate Ministry for Other Backward Classes. However, there is a full fledged Backward Classes Division with sufficient staff in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to look after the welfare measures of OBCs. Therefore, creation of a separate Ministry for the OBCs is not considered as necessary.
