

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5312
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.04.2022**

IDENTIFICATION OF OBCs ON THE BASIS OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

†5312. SHRI DULAL CHAND GOSWAMI:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to amend the constitution to empower the States for listing and identifying the backward classes on the basis of social and economic grounds;
- (b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be amended;
- (c) whether there were provisions to empower the States for the said purpose earlier; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SUSHRI PRATIMA BHOUMIK)**

(a) to (d): -As per Article 342A(3) of the Constitution, inserted vide the Constitution 105th Amendment Act 2021 - "every State or Union Territory may, by law, prepare and maintain, for its own purposes, a list of socially and educationally backward classes, entries in which may be different from the Central List." As per Articles 15(6) and 16(6) of the Constitution, inserted vide the Constitution 103rd Amendment Act, 2019 - all the States and Union Territories can make special provisions for the advancement of economically weaker sections of citizens and for giving reservation in appointments in State/UT Government jobs and in admissions to State/UT educational institutions. Thus, all the States/UTs are already empowered for listing and identifying the backward classes on the basis of social and economic grounds.
