

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5409
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.04.2022**

STATUS ECONOMICALLY WEAKER SECTION

5409. SHRI DIBYENDU ADHIKARI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has defined and fixed the status of Economically Weaker Section in terms of assets and income in the country for all classes and creeds of the people and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the annual income limit for OBCs has been kept unchanged over the prescribed limit therein; and
- (c) if so, whether the Constitution of India gives the mandate to prescribe different yardsticks for economic parity of two communities within same country and if so, the details therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a): The benefits of EWS reservation is available to those persons who are not covered under the existing reservation scheme for SCs/STs/OBCs in Central Government. The assets and income criteria for getting the benefits of EWS reservation has been defined and fixed only for these classes of citizens and not for all classes and creeds of the people. The details are-

All persons whose family has gross annual income below Rs. 8.00 lakh per annum are identified as EWSs for the benefit of reservation. Family here, includes the person who seeks benefit of reservation, his/her parents and siblings below the age of 18 years as also his/her spouse and children below the age of 18 years. Also income includes income from all sources i.e. salary, agriculture, business, profession etc. and such income may be certified by an officer not below the rank of Tahsildar. To further ensure that the benefit of reservation reaches the needy people, persons whose family owns or possesses the following assets are excluded from being identified as EWSs:-

- 5 acres of Agricultural Land and above;
- Residential flat of 1000 sq. ft. and above;
- Residential plot of 100 yards and above in notified municipalities;
- Residential plot of 200 yards and above in areas other than the notified municipalities.

(b): The annual income limit for creamy layer for the OBCs was last revised in the year 2017 and has remained unchanged since then.

(c): Articles 15(5) and Articles 16(5) enable the State to make special provisions for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes of citizens and provide reservation to them in admissions to educational institutions and recruitment to Government jobs while Articles 15(6) and 16(6) enable the State to make similar special provisions for the advancement of economically weaker sections of citizens. However, the Constitution does not give the mandate to prescribe different yardsticks for economic parity of the two communities.
