

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1957
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.03.2025**

HIGHER CUT-OFF FOR OBC CATEGORY

1957. SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:

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

- (a) the number of instances where the cut-off marks for candidates from the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category were higher than those for the General category in various government examinations and recruitment during the last five years;
- (b) the reasons for such occurrences, including factors related to reservation policies, candidate performance and vacancy distribution;
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to address concerns related to fairness in the reservation system while ensuring equitable opportunities for all categories; and
- (d) whether any policy review is being considered to prevent such anomalies in the future and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI B.L.VERMA)

(a) & (b): Recruitment to posts and services under the Central Government is made by various Recruiting Agencies and different Ministries/Departments. The cut-off marks for candidates in various Government examinations and recruitment are decided by the concerned Ministry/Department/Recruiting Agencies of the Government. No centralized data is maintained by the Government in this regard.

(c) & (d): As per information provided by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), they have issued various instructions and reiterated the same from time to time as per which, each Ministry/Department and organizations under it is required to designate an officer, at least of the rank of Deputy Secretary, as a Liaison Officer for OBCs for enforcement of orders of reservation in posts and services of the Central Government. The duties of the Liaison Officer inter-alia include ensuring due compliance by the subordinate appointing authorities with the orders and instructions pertaining to reservation of vacancies in favour of backward classes. A Special Reservation Cell within the Ministry/Department under the direct control of the Liaison Officer is also required to set up to assist the Liaison Officer in discharging of his duties effectively. In case of any negligence in implementation of the reservation policies by the concerned appointing authority, the Liaison Officer is required to report such negligence directly to the Addl. Secretary/Secretary of the Department concerned, who shall take necessary action to ensure the compliance of the reservation instructions. Thus, the Secretary of each administrative Ministry/Department is required to ensure compliance of the instructions relating to reservation with the assistance of Liaison Officer concerned.
