



# ALL INDIA FEDERATION OF OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES EMPLOYEES' WELFARE ASSOCIATIONS



(National Organisation representing Central Govt. and Public Sector OBC Employees)

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July 18, 2022

Respected

**Shri Narendra Modi**

Hon'ble Prime Minister

Govt. of India

New Delhi

Respected Sir,

## CENSUS-2021

### NEED TO CONDUCT CASTE CENSUS

With further reference to our earlier letters on the subject, we would like respectfully submit:

- The entire exercise of caste-wise census, must be undertaken only by the Census Department, as Census comes under the Union List** (Entry 69 under the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution); Inquiries, surveys and statistics for the purpose of any of the matters in the Union List are also the responsibility of the government of India as per entry 94 of the Union List.

For the purpose of any of the matters in the Union List, it is the exclusive responsibility of the Government of India like Elections to Parliament and State Legislatures. **The matter need not be entrusted to the State Governments who do not possess the task force for this exercise.**

Further **Sections 5 (1) of the Census Act 1948** lays down the function of Census Commissioner who shall "compile and publish the census statistics" and hence it is

the **statutory duty of the Census Commissioner and the Central Government** to ensure that the Caste Census data collected is compiled, tabulated and published by them.

2. While passing the 127<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Bill, almost all the political parties have demanded caste census. The NDA government's alliance partners JD (U) Apna Dal, RPI were also demanding caste census. Few BJP MPs have also spoken in favour.
3. It is to be remembered that Caste data had been successfully collected, processed and disseminated by the Census of India in all the past Censuses of 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911, 1921 and 1931. Even in 1941 also, it was done but not tabulated for want of funds due to then-ongoing World War. At none of these Censuses, then Commissioners or officials put forth this argument. In fact, they conducted the exercise seriously as it was one of the important characteristics of Indian Society and any census of the population of India without its caste profile would be incomplete.
4. Even after eighty years now, in the absence of current caste data, the Governments and data users, again and again, have to go back to the 1931 Census report for caste data.
5. It will only be a lame excuse that multiplicity of caste and sub-caste names would make a scientific collection of data impossible when the Government is fully equipped and moving forward towards a '**digital India**'.
6. In the absence of reliable data with the Governments at present, the legality of the legislation passed by the Government both at the Centre and States on the reservation policies for the OBCs, SCs, STs are repeatedly questioned by the Hon'ble Courts. This has become more relevant now when petitions are made for identifying the creamy layer among all the reserved categories including SC/ST and to remove them from the purview of

reservation, sub-categorisation within reserved groups and reservation for the economically weaker sections among upper castes.

7. All these arguments can be well answered only through a valid database that can be done only through the enumeration of a caste-wise census.
8. **The United States Census Bureau in its 2020 Census Questionnaire** requires its citizens to **spell out their origin** (Hispanic, Latin, or Spanish) **and race** (Black, African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, etc) under Questions No. 6 & 7 of the Questionnaire. In the earlier Censuses also, the US adopts this method so as to effect affirmative action for these racial groups.
9. The Government appointed Commission on Sub-categorisation headed by Justice G Rohini (retd), has said that the Commission needs to have some estimate of the caste-wise population figures and as there is no available official caste-wise population data post-Independence, decides to get an all-India survey.

Thus, the Commission that has been entrusted with the important task of sub-categorisation of OBCs, in the absence of a caste-wise data, has been pushed to request for an all-India survey. This if done, will not be full-fledged exercise and will end up like SECC-2011 incurring an additional cost with no fruitful results.

10. The need to have a caste count of OBCs assumes importance and significance in the wake of Constitutional powers entrusted to **NCBC** by the Government of India.
11. This objective can easily be achieved without any extra effort or expense if a caste column is included in the census schedule while doing the house-to-house enumeration. For each

individual in the household schedule, **there should be a column for 'Religion' followed by a column 'Caste & sub-caste, if any'** and then the various columns for socio-economic, educational and demographic parameters. **Or else, after the Column of 'SC/ST', additional column as 'Caste & Sub-Caste, if any' may be created.**

12. The caste data so collected can easily be captured, collated, tabulated and published in a time-bound program within two years along with all the other socio-economic data like literacy, education, occupation, work characteristics, and other demographic indices collected through the census. This will be ideal and will serve the purpose without any additional expenditure for the Government.
13. We, therefore, request your goodself to kindly consider conducting a caste-wise Census including OBCs that will guide the Government to take concrete decisions on matters of reservation policy and welfare measures for the disadvantaged sections of the society and thus will help to achieve 'sab ka vikas' or inclusive development for all the sections of our country.
14. We hope and trust that your goodself will take a bold and immediate decision for conducting caste-wise Census enumeration 2021 by modifying the questionnaire accordingly.

With respectful regards,

Yours sincerely,



(G.Karunanidhy)  
General Secretary