



ALL INDIA BACKWARD CLASSES FEDERATION

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Respected Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy Garu

As you are well aware, over the last three decades, Backward Classes [Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC), Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST)], who constitute nearly 80% of the people of Andhra Pradesh, are being increasingly denied our Constitutional fundamental right to reservations by our judiciary imposing on us mandatory pre-conditions for reservations, not found in the Constitution, that data should be produced before the court to prove our (i) backwardness (for SEBC); (ii) lack of adequate representation in public employment; and (iii) the impact of reservations on administrative efficiency — even though all of this as patent as daylight on a sunny day.

The problem is that the required data is not available. Whatever limited data is available, based on surveys, is incomplete, often unreliable and generally biased against us because of the anti-reservationist social vested interests of those who produce it. Only a socio-economic caste census carried out by the government can produce the required data. Only the State has the authority to carry out such a census.

For a decade, the Indian State (the Union Government) has been refusing to give us socio-economic caste data which they have with them from the 2011 socio-economic caste census. They have not agreed to include a socio-

1 | Page

State General See.

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economic caste census in the 2021 census.

Meanwhile, the Indian State (the judiciary) is asking us to produce the data that the Indian State (Union Government) is denying us if we are to get our fundamental right to reservations! The judiciary is also refusing to order the Indian government to release the socio-economic caste data that is in their possession or to gather the data that the judiciary is asking for in order to give us reservations.

We are therefore in a helpless and hopeless "Catch-22" situation deliberately constructed with no intention than to deny us our fundamental right to reservations and subvert the Constitutional scheme for social justice.

Under the circumstances, the only option for the SEBC, SC and ST communities of Andhra Pradesh to secure our fundamental right to reservations is for the Government of Andhra Pradesh to carry out a 'Andhra Pradesh State socio-economic and educational caste census' (SEECC) to generate State level census data which we could produce before courts to protect our fundamental right to reservations.

We write therefore to request that a 'Andhra Pradesh State socio-economic and educational caste census' (SEECC) be carried out urgently by the Andhra Pradesh Government, either as a stand alone census or as a part of a broader planning and development oriented State Census, to be completed not later than by the end of the financial year 2020-2021.

This may be done either under existing Andhra Pradesh legislation and rules

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2 | Page

or, if need be, a new legislation may be enacted (the 'Andhra Pradesh State Population Enumeration Act') under item 45 of List III (Concurrent List) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution ("Inquiries and statistics for the purposes of any of the matters specified in List II or List III") for the socioeconomic development of the State and for the advancement of purposes enumerated in List II (State List) including, but not limited to, the following Items of the State List: Item 1 (public order); Item 5 (local government); Item 6 (public health and sanitation); Item 9 (relief of the disabled and unemployable); Item 14 (agriculture); Item 13 (communications); Item14 (agriculture); item 21 (fisheries); Item 24 (industries); Item 26 (trade and commerce); Item 41 (state public services); and Item 45 (land revenue).

The public is fully aware of powerful anti-reservationist vested interests within the ruling establishment that continue to subvert our fundamental right to reservations. These vested interests will oppose our request with all their might. However, we have a rightful and righteous expectation that you will protect the common people against their machinations and ensure the SEECC is carried out and that the data we require to protect our Constitutional fundamental right to reservations: a Government under your leadership was empowered in a historic election solely because of the overwhelming support you received from the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC), and Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), cutting across religions, regions and castes. We deliberately chose to put you in power to secure the rights and the interests of the masses. We have every confidence that we have not made a mistake in doing so and that you will

State General Sec 3 | Page
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uncompromisingly protect the interests of the masses and ensure that a 'Andhra Pradesh State socio-economic and educational caste census' is done at the earliest which will provide a truthful and objective picture of the socio-economic condition of the people and of the various social groups of Andhra Pradesh and provide a robust basis for the social and developmental policies of the State.

With respectful regards,

Hansa Raj, Working President of All India BC Federation

Dr. Manepalli V.V.S. N. Murthy,

Secretary General, All India BC Federation, A.P. Unix.

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