

10% QUOTA IN ALL ADMISSIONS FOR 2019-20

Relevant for: Indian Polity | Topic: Indian Constitution - Features & Significant Provisions related to Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles and Fundamental Duties

This quota will be over and above the existing quotas for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Castes, which will also be implemented in private institutions, the Minister said on Tuesday.

The income criteria for the EWS quota would be set at a gross annual household income of Rs. 8 lakh, said a senior Ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

While the 93rd constitutional amendment enabled the provision of 27% reservation for OBCs in both public and private educational institutions, the Central Educational Institutes Amendment Act, 2006, only mandated the implementation of the OBC quota in centrally-funded institutions. Private players in many States do not implement the OBC quota.

Separately, the Centre had also decided to extend the 7th Central Pay Commission to teachers and other academic staff of State and State government-aided degree level technical institutions.

As the Centre would reimburse 50% of the total additional expenditure to be incurred by these institutes for payment of arrears, the Centre would bear an additional liability of Rs. 1,241.78 crore, said Mr. Javadekar.

The Minister's announcement came barely days after Parliament passed a constitutional amendment providing for 10% reservation in jobs and educational institutions to economically backward sections in the general category. It is unclear whether a new legislation or an executive order will be passed to implement the quota for admissions in the upcoming academic year.

By saying that the quota would be implemented "across 40,000 colleges and 900 universities in the country", Mr. Javadekar made it clear that private institutions would also come within its ambit. The SC, ST and OBC quotas will also be mandated in private institutions across the country through this measure, he asserted.

"In the 2019-20 academic session, we will have this 10% reservation without disturbing, [while] keeping intact the SC, ST and OBC reservation," said Mr. Javadekar. "This will be given in addition, by creating additional seats," he said, adding that the estimated increase would be to the tune of 25% more seats.

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