

GOVT. TO REVISIT INCOME CRITERION FOR EWS QUOTA

Relevant for: Developmental Issues | Topic: Rights & Welfare of STs, SCs, and OBCs - Schemes & their Performance, Mechanisms, Laws Institutions and Bodies

In a previous hearing, the apex court had expressed its annoyance at the Government for not filing an affidavit explaining how it reached the Rs. 8 lakh figure to identify the EWS category. "Tell us if you want to revisit the criteria or not. If you want us to discharge our duties, then we are ready to do so. We are formulating questions... you need to answer them," Justice Chandrachud had said.

"You cannot just pick Rs. 8 lakh out of the thin air and fix it as a criterion. There has to be some basis, some study. Tell us whether any demographic study or data was taken into account in fixing the limit. How do you arrive at this exact figure? Can the Supreme Court strike down the criteria if no study was undertaken?" the court had asked the Government. In a hearing on October 7, the Government had assured the court that it would file an affidavit on oath explaining the reasons and statistics which led to the figure as the annual income criterion.

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