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ವಿಭಾಗ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Ministry

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Indian Express ಪುಟ : DATE: 18/12/19

GOVT MULLS OBC QUOTA IN NAVODAYA SCHOOLS, KVs

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IN a decision that will have political ramifications, the Union Human Resources Development Ministry plans to implement OBC quota in Kendriya Vidyalayas and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas from the next academic session.

Till now, there was no provision for reservation for OBC students at school level though SC/ST students were given reservations.

There are 1,228 KVs in India under the Department of School Education & Literacy of the HRD Ministry with 13 lakh students. It is the largest chain of schools globally.

There are about 600 Navodaya Vidyalayas — a system of residential schools for talented students of Classes 6-12 predominantly from rural areas, where reservation for SC/ST students is given in proportion to their population in the specific district.

At present, 15% of all fresh

admissions in KVs are reserved for SC students, 7.5% for the ST category and 3% for differently abled children.

The JNVs have provision of reservation for ST/SCs but these schools also need to ensure 75% students from rural areas, maximum 25% from urban areas, 33% female students and 3% disabled students.

The quota is being implemented in line with the Central Educational Institute (Reservation in Admissions) Act, 2006, rolled out between 2006-2009 amid massive protests by students.

Officials in the HRD Ministry said the decision to extend the quota in centrally-run schools was being taken after detailed discussions with the ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Law ministry and the OBC Commission.

A Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of OBCs had been pulling up the HRD Ministry to implement the quota in two premium set of schools from 2020-21.