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PAPER CLIPPINGS

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K'taka cabinet panel to look into SC/ST quota hike demand

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The state cabinet on Wednesday decided to constitute a cabinet sub-committee to study the demand for increasing reservation of Schedule Castes (SC) and Schedule Tribes (ST) in the state.

Law minister JC Madhuswamy said chief minister BS Yediyurappa will decide members of the sub-committee.

The decision has been taken considering the Justice Nagamohan Das Commission report recently submitted to the government. The commission was set up to look into the demand for increasing SC/ST reservation.

The commission is understood to have recommended a hike in quota by about 2% for two categories — education and employment. The final report, prepared after an eight-month study, was submitted to CM Yediyurappa

7.5% QUOTA FOR STs SOUGHT

> In July this year, Justice Nagamohan Das Commission believed to have recommended 2% hike for SCs & STs in education and jobs

> There are demands from various quarters to increase SC quota from 15% to 17% and ST quota 3% to 7.5%

> According to leaked census data, SCs account for 19-20% of the state's population while STs make up about 4%

pa in July this year.

At present, Karnataka has 15% reservation for 101 Scheduled Castes, 3% for 50 Scheduled Tribes and 32% for Other Backward Classes (OBC), including Muslims, Christians, and Jains.

> 851 applications, P 4

Commission got 851 applications, held 38 meetings

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The commission received 851 applications and suggestions and conducted 38 meetings across the state between November 2019 and June 2020.

During the previous coalition government headed by HD Kumaraswamy, there was a demand to increase reservation. In October 2019, the government constituted the Justice Nagamohan Das Commission to explore ways to meet the demand.

At that time, there was a proposal to increase SC reservation from 15 per cent to 17 per cent and for STs, from 3 per cent to 7 per cent. The Valmiki community, which belongs to the ST, demanded an increase in ST quota to 7.5 per cent.

The decision comes close on the heels of the Kuruba and Kodava communities demanding ST tags.

Valmiki strongman and social welfare department minister B Sriramulu, who has spearheaded the movement for his community, welcomed the decision.

OTHER KEY DECISIONS

● Government to release Rs 4,000 crore towards flood relief for four to five North Karnataka districts hit by recent rain and subsequent flooding

● Twenty-one general holidays, 19 restricted holidays for 2021 calendar year

● Government can take disciplinary action against its employees without consulting Karnataka Public Service Commission

● Change in cadre and recruitment rules for agriculture services recruitments

The decision also appears to be a quid quo pro between Sriramulu and forest minister Anand Singh over the former not opposing the creation of the Vijayanagara district and the latter supporting the formation of the sub-committee.