

## **Double economic ceiling on OBC creamy layer: Panel**

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With inflation and the salary of Government employees increasing continuously, the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) has recommended to the Government to raise the economic ceiling for OBC quota to `9 lakh per annum — double the existing ceiling of `4.5 lakh per annum.

“The NCBC has sent its report to Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Mukul Wasnik on September 15. Now, it is upto the Government to take a decision on our recommendations,” sources in the NCBC told The Pioneer.

Those above the ceiling are termed as “creamy layer” among OBCs and they are ineligible to claim reservation in civil posts, services and professional courses.

“The `4.5 lakh ceiling, which was fixed in 2008, is very less. Since then, inflation has sky-rocketed. Moreover, the salary of the Central Government employees has also increased after the implementation of the Sixth Pay Commission’s recommendations,” sources said.

According to rules, the ceiling has to be revised every three years. Before the last ceiling was revised in 2008, the “cut off mark” below the “creamy layer” was `2.5 lakh. The ceiling had been fixed on the basis of the recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission. The ceiling was Rs one lakh in the year 1993.

The Commission feels that inflation has shot up in the last three years, touching double digit at present. The prices of all essential commodities, including food items, have doubled and the prices of petroleum products have also increased substantially, they feel.

According to the sources, the Commission in its report has also mentioned that the salary of the Central Government employees has increased substantially, threatening to include even a Third Grade bank employee in the creamy layer.

**Keeping these factors in view the full Commission, comprising Chairman Justice MN Rao, members RS Kharvandan, Deepak Katole and Shakeel uz zaman Ansari, has recommended to the Government to double the ceiling to at least `9 lakh.**

The NCBC has arrived at the conclusion after consulting the State Backward Classes Commissions. “Most of the State Commissions have recommended doubling the ceiling. Some have suggested that it should be increased three and even four times of the present limit,” the sources said.

The Central Government had expedited its efforts in 2008 to revise the economic eligibility for the “economically forwards” among the OBCs after the Supreme Court ordered it to keep the “creamy layer” out of the quota ambit.

The NCBC was thereafter asked to consult all states and recommend a revised cut-off mark to decide the eligibility for OBC quota.

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## **Panel proposes Rs. 9 lakhs hike in OBC creamy layer ceiling**

**(Saubhadra Chatterji, Hindustan Times New Delhi, September 20, 2011)**

The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) has recommended on 15.09.2011 raising the annual income bar of Other Backward Classes (OBC) creamy layer from the existing Rs 4.5 lakh to Rs 9 lakh. If the UPA cabinet accepts the recommendation, 70% of the country's OBC population will be able to avail reservation benefits outside the creamy layer, claims NCBC sources. Currently, if an OBC family's annual income exceeds Rs 4.5 lakh, it is considered to be in creamy layer, becoming ineligible for reservation quotas.

The NCBC's move comes at a time when political parties are playing caste-cards, ahead of the crucial Uttar Pradesh assembly polls. UP CM and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati has also written to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, demanding reservation for upper caste poor and Muslims in government jobs and educational institutions.

The Congress-led UPA government is also contemplating reservation for Muslims in these two places, as Union law minister Salman Khurshid had said in Hyderabad on Sunday.

"We sent our recommendations to the government last week. We expect the Centre would soon take decisions," said Shakeel-uz-Zaman, NCBC member.

In its report to the government, NCBC cited that the implementation of the Sixth Pay Commission has raised the income level of government employees. Increased fee structure of educational institutes and price index too, have affected several economically weaker OBCs and therefore, it sought the government's steps to address these anomalies.

"In this time of high inflation, the value of a Rupee has also gone down. The aim of the creamy layer is to stop richer sections among OBCs from taking all benefits. But now the income ceiling of the creamy layer needs to be revised to avoid weaker sections from being deprived," said another member of the commission.

The UPA government had revised the creamy layer ceiling from Rs 2.5 lakh in 2004 to Rs 4.5 lakh in 2008 after it extended 27% OBC quota in Central educational institutes. The social justice and empowerment ministry is studying the proposals.

### **Comments of Obcguru.com:-**

The move of National Commission for Backward Classes {NCBC} New Delhi & Government of India to hike OBC creamy layer limit by Rs. 9 lakhs from existing Rs. 4.50 lakhs is appreciable. Because in 1992 Mandal decision and in 2008 IIT-IIM decision the Supreme Court directed to exclude "CREAMY LAYER" only from OBCs i.e. 5% of OBCs {AS 5% CREAM EXISTS IN MILK}. Hence to give reservation to rest 95% non creamy layer OBCs actually this limit should be raised to Rs. 15 Lakhs. **Actually this is not a below poverty line criteria as wrongly spreaded. THIS LIMIT IS ALSO APPLICABLE TO GENERAL & SC-ST CANDIDATES AS THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR 82000 NO. Rs. 1000/2000 P.M. "CENTRAL SECTOR SCHOLARSHIP OF GOVT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE AND DEVELOPMENT" FOR COLLEGIATE STUDENTS HAVING 80% MARKS IN 12<sup>TH</sup> BOARD}**