

Significance of NCBC Bill

Why in news?

\n\n

The Lok Sabha unanimously passed the Bill for constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).

\n\n

What is NCBC?

\n\n

\n

- National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) is a body set up under the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993.

\n

- It has the power to examine complaints regarding inclusion or exclusion of groups within the list of backward classes, and advise the central government in this regard.

\n

- The central and state governments will be required to consult with the NCBC on all major policy matters affecting the socially and educationally backward classes.

\n

\n\n

What is NCBC bill?

\n\n

\n

- The Constitution (123rd Amendment) Bill, 2017 was passed in Lok Sabha, seeks to grant the National Commission on Backward Classes (NCBC) constitutional status.

\n

- This at par with the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.

\n

- Currently, under the Constitution the NCSC has the power to look into

complaints and welfare measures with regard to Scheduled Castes, backward classes and Anglo-Indians.

\n

- The Bill seeks to remove the power of the NCSC to examine matters related to backward classes.

\n

\n\n

What is the significance of this bill?

\n\n

\n

- The Bill seeks to establish the NCBC under the Constitution, and provide it the authority to examine complaints and welfare measures regarding socially and educationally backward classes.

\n

- The Constitution Amendment Bill states that the President may specify the socially and educationally backward classes in the various states and union territories.

\n

- He may do this in consultation with the Governor of the concerned state, however a law of Parliament will be required if the list of backward classes is to be amended.

\n

- The NCBC will comprise of five members appointed by the President, their tenure and conditions of service will also be decided by the President through rules.

\n

- The duties of the NCBC will include:

\n

\n\n

\n

1. Investigating and monitoring how safeguards provided to the backward classes under the Constitution and other laws are being implemented.

\n

2. Inquiring into specific complaints regarding violation of rights.

\n

3. Advising and making recommendations on socio-economic development of such classes.

\n

\n\n

\n

- Under the Constitution Amendment Bill, the NCBC will have the powers of a civil court while investigating or inquiring into any complaints.
- These powers include - Summoning people and examining them on oath, requiring production of any document or public record and receiving evidence.

\n\n

\n\n

Source: The Hindu, PRS India

\n

