

Regarding need to revise the income limit of Rs. 8 Lakh to determine the creamy layer within the OBC Category-Laid

SHRI B. MANICKAM TAGORE (VIRUDHUNAGAR): I would like to highlight a crucial issue—the creamy layer within the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category and the need for its review in 2025. The creamy layer concept, introduced to ensure only economically disadvantaged members of the OBC community benefit from affirmative action, was last reviewed in 2018. At that time, the income limit for identifying the creamy layer was set at Rs. 8 lakh per annum. As we approach 2025, it is necessary to re-examine this threshold. The current income limit may no longer accurately reflect the economic challenges faced by the truly marginalized in the OBC community. With rising inflation, changing socio-economic conditions, and regional disparities, the current criteria need an urgent review to ensure fairness and effectiveness. We, as a nation, must adopt a more comprehensive and updated approach, which focuses not only on income but also on broader socio-economic factors. It is critical that affirmative action reaches the right people—the ones who need it most. This is not just about policy revision but about upholding justice and ensuring equality for all.