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Title: Need to empower the National Commission for Backward Classes to redress the grievances of OBCs in the country.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): In our country, it is believed that 60% of the population belongs to Other Backward Classes (OBCs). As per the provision of National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993, the Commission was constituted to aim at protecting the interests of OBCs. But for the last 17 years, the Commission has not been given adequate powers to deal with the grievances of OBCs. As per Article 338(10) of the Constitution of India, National Commission for Scheduled Castes has been given the power to deal with the issues relating to OBCs.

The Mandal Commission was appointed in 1979 by the President of India and its recommendations were implemented by providing reservation of 27% posts in Government services and seats in educational institutions for OBCs. The Central Government also provided reservation for the OBC students in higher educational institution like IIMs, IITs. But in practice, they are facing many problems in getting the reservation facilities extended to them and the affected people are knocking the doors of National Commission for Backward Classes to redress their genuine grievances. However, the National Commission for Backward Classes is not empowered to redress their grievances. A separate Parliamentary Committee for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was constituted long ago and it is functioning very well to protect the rights of SCs/STs. But no such Parliamentary Committee for OBCs has been constituted and now it is the need of hour to constitute a separate Parliamentary Committee for OBCs.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to take steps to amend the Constitution of India and empower the National Commission for Backward Classes to be vested with adequate powers so as to redress the genuine grievances of OBCs of our country.