Extension of Sub-Categorization of OBCs

GS-PAPER-2 OBC

Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved a six-month extension to the commission appointed to examine sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes (OBCs), up to 31st January 2021. The commission is headed by Justice (Retd.) G Rohini. It was constituted under Article 340 of the Constitution with the approval of the President on 2nd October 2017.

It had been constituted to complete the task of sub-categorising 5000-odd castes in the central OBC list so as to ensure more equitable distribution of opportunities in central government jobs and educational institutions.

- Article 340 deals with the appointment of a commission to investigate the conditions of backward classes.
- It shall investigate the matters referred to them and present a report to the President.
- The President shall cause a copy of the report so presented together with a memorandum explaining the action taken thereon to be laid before each House of Parliament.

**National Commission for Backward Classes**

NOW It is a constitutional body established in 1993 under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. It was constituted pursuant to the provisions of the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993.

The 102nd Constitution Amendment Act, 2018 provided constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC), which was previously a statutory body.

NCBC has the authority to examine complaints and welfare measures regarding socially and educationally backward classes. In 2015, the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) had recommended that OBCs should be categorized into extremely backward classes, more backward classes and backward classes. The benefits of the reservation in OBCs are being cornered mostly by the dominant OBC groups over the years so there is a need to recognize sub-quotas for the extremely backward classes within the OBCs.