

NOTIFICATION NO-537/2023
NOTIFICATION DATE-02/05/2023

Students's Name – Urvashi Shaukeen

Supervisor's Name – DR. S.R.T.P.Sugunakara Raju

Name of Department – Department of Political Science

Name of Topic – Quest for Reservation: An agitation by Jats in Haryana

Keywords – Jats, Reservation, Political Economy, Mandal Commission, Caste

FINDING

Indian society has often been dubbed as a 'compartmental society' consisting of vast number of groups who maintain distinct and diverse lifestyle. The unique feature of Indian society is its division into Castes. For centuries together social injustices based on caste, creed, religion, class etc. have been the bone of contention in Indian society. Caste with its ideology of graded inequality and with its package of social disabilities imposed on lower castes played a major role in weakening our social fabric. It is also responsible for keeping a major chunk of population socially and educationally deprived and economically backward for millennia. Over a period of time, we have developed a system of social stratification in which society is divided into two conflicting groups of people, the haves and haves-not. The former group had the monopoly over economic, political and social power which it still largely continues to do so and the later were denied their rights in all the sphere of life.

The hierarchical system of socio-economic power of the traditional Indian society has placed the higher caste groups in commanding position of dominance and forced the lower caste groups to remain submissive. Even after the independence this trend has continued and whatever socio-economic transformation has taken place on limited scale due to forces of modernisation and the policy of reservation had failed to break the monopoly of upper castes and classes. Hence, even after more than six decades of the Indian independence the SCs, STs and OBCs remain to be the most vulnerable and deplorable sections of our society.

The backward class movements aimed at capturing political power and socio-economic ascendance in the states of India. The Backward Castes leaders insisted upon the caste as the basis of determination of backwardness. Social service and giving education to women and lower caste people were the main aims of his movements. Brahmins opposed the movement as it challenged their supremacy. The Backward Classes which included mainly peasant castes of various descriptions with a low ritual status are a dominant force in the economic and political life of the people in the country side.

Reservations in India have become a political necessity. It is only seen as a tool to get access to the vote bank. Affirmative action was designed for those who have suffered social discrimination and historical wrong that certain caste/ tribal groups experienced for centuries, not as a poverty alleviation, employment measure.

The reservation has historically been associated with caste. And often in our imagination, there was a stigma that the upper caste put on those who had come through the reservation. By including upper castes under the sign of reservation, it dissociates caste and the stigma of reservation.

