

Regarding need to expedite implementation of 27 per cent reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC) in recruitment of faculties in Panjab

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SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI (JALANDHAR): I would like to bring to the attention of the Government to the persistent ambiguity and delay in implementing the 27 per cent reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC) in Panjab University (PU), Chandigarh. Despite a clear directive from the Hon^{ble} Supreme Court pulling up the Chandigarh UT administration for delays in implementing the OBC quota, Panjab University continues to follow a self-defined 5 per cent reservation for backward classes far below the 27 per cent mandated under the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006. PU authorities cite a 2024 judgment of the Punjab and Haryana High Court stating that the university is not a 'Central Educational Institution' and hence not obligated to follow central reservation policy. However, this has led to a state of administrative limbo. A proposal for 27 per cent OBC reservation in faculty recruitment remains pending with the Union Ministry of Education since May 2024. Meanwhile, student and faculty protests continue unabated. The UT education department has stated that it will seek legal opinion post the Supreme Court directive. I urge the Union Government to take urgent steps to resolve the ambiguity, ensure justice for OBC candidates, and uphold constitutional guarantees of equality and social justice.