

Special Provisions of the
CONSTITUTION OF INDIA
for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes

ARTICLE 15: Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth—

- (1) The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them, .
- (2) No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them, be subject to any disability, liability, restriction or condition with regard to—
 - (a) access to shops, public restaurants, hotels and places of public entertainment; or
 - (b) the use of wells, tanks, bathing ghats, roads and places of public resort maintained wholly or partly out of State funds or dedicated to the use of general public.
- (3) Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for women and children.
- ¹[(4) Nothing in this article or in clause (2) of article 29 shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes]

ARTICLE 16: Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment—

- (1) There shall be equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State.
 - (2) No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them, be ineligible for, or discriminated against in respect of, any employment or office under the State.
 - (3) Nothing in this article shall prevent Parliament from making any law prescribing, in regard to class or classes of employment or appointment to an office ²[under the Government of, or any local or other authority within, a State or Union territory, any requirement as to residence within that State or Union territory] prior to such employment or appointment.
 - (4) Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the services under the State
- ³ [4(A) Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any provision for reservation in matters of promotion to any class or classes of posts in the services under the State in favour of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes which in the opinion of the States, are not adequately represented in the services under the State].

¹ Added by the Constitution (Twenty-fourth Amendment) Act, 1971, s. 2

² Subs. by the Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act, 1956, s. 29 and Sch., for “under any State specified in the First Schedule or any local or other authority within its territory, any requirement as to residence within that State”.

³ Ins. by the Constitution (Seventy-seventh Amendment) Act, 1995, s. 2

- ⁴ [4(B) Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from considering any unfilled vacancies of a year which are reserved for being filled up in that year in accordance with any provision for reservation made under clause (4) or Clause (4A) as a separate class of vacancies to be filled up in any succeeding year or years and such class of vacancies shall not be considered together with the vacancies of the year in which they are being filled up for determining the ceiling of fifty per cent reservation on total number of vacancies of that year.]
- (5) Nothing in this article shall affect the operation of any law which provides that the incumbent of an office in connection with the affairs of any religious or denominational institution or any member of the governing body thereof shall be a person professing a particular religion or belonging to a particular denomination.

ARTICLE 17: Abolition of Untouchability—

“Untouchability” is abolished and its practice in any form is forbidden. The enforcement of any disability arising out of “Untouchability” shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law.

ARTICLE 46: Promotion of educational and economic interests of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Weaker sections—

The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.

ARTICLE 164: Other provisions as to Ministers—

- (1) The Chief Minister shall be appointed by the Governor and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister, and the Ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the Governor:

Provided that in the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa, there shall be a Minister in charge of tribal welfare who may in addition be in charge of welfare of the Scheduled Castes and backward classes or any other work.

ARTICLE 330: Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the House of the People—

- (1) Seats will be reserved in the House of the People for—
- (a) the Scheduled Castes;
 - ⁵[(b) the Scheduled Tribes except the Scheduled Tribes in the autonomous districts of Assam; and]
 - (c) the Scheduled Tribes in the autonomous districts of Assam.
- (2) The number of seats reserved in any State ⁶[or Union territory] for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes under clause (1) shall bear, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of seats allotted to the States ⁶[or

⁴ Ins. by the Constitution (Eighty-first Amendment) Act, 2000

⁵ Subs. by the Constitution (Fifty-first Amendment) Act, 1984, s. 2, for sub-clause (b) (w. e. f. 16-6-1986)

⁶ Ins. by the Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act, 1956, s. 29 and Sch.

Union territory] in the House of the People as the population of the Scheduled Castes in the State ⁶[or Union territory] or of the Scheduled Tribes in the State ⁶[or Union territory] or part of the State ⁶[or Union territory], as the case may be, in respect of which seats are so reserved, bears to the total population of the State ⁶[or Union territory].

⁷[(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in clause (2), the number of seats reserved in the House of the People for the Scheduled Tribes in the autonomous districts of Assam shall bear to the total number of seats allotted to that State a proportion not less than the population of Scheduled Tribes in the said autonomous districts bears to the total population of the State].

⁸ [*Explanation*—In this article and in article 332, the expression “population” means the population as ascertained at the last preceding census of which the relevant figures have been published:

Provided that the reference in this *Explanation* to the last preceding census of which the relevant figures have been published shall, until the relevant figures for the first census taken after the year 2000 have been published, be construed as reference to the 1971 census]

ARTICLE 332:

Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assemblies of the States—

- (1) Seats shall be reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, ⁹[except the Scheduled Tribes in the autonomous districts of Assam], in the Legislative Assembly of every State ^{10***}
- (2) Seats shall be reserved also for the autonomous districts in the Legislative Assembly of the State of Assam.
- (3) The number of seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly of any State under clause (1) shall bear, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of seats in the Assembly as the population of the Scheduled Castes in the State or of the Scheduled Tribes in the State or part of the State, as the case may be, in respect of which seats are so reserved, bears to the total population of the State.

¹¹[(3A) Notwithstanding anything contained in clause (3), until the taking effect, under article 170, of the re-adjustment, on the basis of the first census after the year 2000, of the number of seats in the Legislative Assemblies of the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland, the seats which shall be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly of any such State shall be,—

- (a) if all seats in the Legislative Assembly of such State in existence on the date of coming into force of the Constitution (Fifty-seventh Amendment) Act, 1987 (hereafter in this clause referred to as the existing Assembly) are held by members of the Scheduled Tribes, all seats except one;

⁷ Ins. by the Constitution (Thirty-first Amendment) Act, 1973, s. 3.

⁸ Ins. by the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976, s. 47 (w. e. f. 3-1-1977)

⁹ Subs. by the Constitution (Fifty-first Amendment) Act, 1984, s. 3, for certain words (w. e. f. 16-6-1986)

¹⁰ The words and letters “specified in Part A or Part B of the First Schedule” omitted by the Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act, 1956, s. 29 and Sch

¹¹ Ins. by the Constitution (Fifty-seventh Amendment) Act, 1987, s. 2 (w. e. f. 21-9-87)

- (b) in any other case, such number of seats as bears to the total number of seats, a proportion not less than the number (as on the said date) of members belonging to the Scheduled Tribes in the existing Assembly bears to the total number of seats in the existing Assembly.]

¹²[(3B) Notwithstanding anything contained in clause (3), until the re-adjustment, under article 170, takes effect on the basis of the first census after the year 2000, of the number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of the State of Tripura, the seats which shall be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly shall be, such number of seats as bears to the total number of seats, a proportion not less than the number, as on the date of coming into force of the Constitution (Seventy-second Amendment) Act, 1992, of members belonging to the Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly in existence on the said date bears to the total number of seats in that Assembly.]

(4) The number of seats reserved for an autonomous district in the Legislative Assembly of the State of Assam shall bear to the total number of seats in that Assembly a proportion not less than the population of the district bears to the total population of the State.

(5) The constituencies for the seats reserved for any autonomous district of Assam shall not comprise any area outside that district¹³

(6) No person who is not a member of a Scheduled Tribe of any autonomous district of the State of Assam shall be eligible for election to the Legislative Assembly of the State from any constituency of that district^{3***}

ARTICLE 334:

Reservation of seats and special representation to cease after ¹⁴[sixty years]—

Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this Part, the provisions of this Constitution relating to—

- (a) the reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the House of the People and in the Legislative Assemblies of the States; and
- (b) the representation of the Anglo-Indian community in the House of the People and in the Legislative Assemblies of the States by nomination, shall cease to have effect on the expiration of a period of ¹⁴[sixty years] from the commencement of this Constitution:

Provided that nothing in this article shall affect any representation in the House of the People or in the Legislative Assembly of a State until the dissolution of the then existing House or Assembly, as the case may be.

ARTICLE 335:

Claims of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to services and posts—

The claims of the members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes shall be taken into consideration, consistently with the maintenance of efficiency of administration, in the making of appointments to services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of a State.

¹⁵[Provided that nothing in this Article shall prevent in making of any provision in favour of the members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for relaxation in qualifying

¹² Ins. by the Constitution (Seventy-second Amendment) Act, 1992, s. 2 (w. e. f. 5-12-1992)

¹³ Certain words omitted by the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971 (81 of 1971), s.71 (w. e. f. 21-1-1972)

¹⁴ Subs. by the Constitution (Seventy-ninth Amendment) Act, 1999, s. 2, for “fifty years” (w. e. f. 25-01-2000)

¹⁵ Ins., by the Constitution (Eighty-second Amendment) Act, 2000.

marks in any examination or lowering the standards of evaluation, for reservation in matters of promotion to any class or classes of services or posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of a State]

ARTICLE 338:

National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Schedule Tribes—

[See the Constitution (Sixty-fifth Amendment) Act, 1990 under the heading “Central Acts constituting National Commissions for Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes”]

ARTICLE 340:

Appointment of a Commission to investigate the conditions of Backward Classes—

- (1) The President may by order appoint a Commission consisting of such persons as he thinks fit to investigate the conditions of socially and educationally backward classes within the territory of India and the difficulties under which they labour and to make recommendations as to the steps that should be taken by the Union or any State to remove such difficulties and to improve their condition and as to the grants that should be made for the purpose by the Union or any State and the conditions subject to which such grants should be made, and the order appointing such Commission shall define the procedure to be followed by the Commission.
- (2) A Commission so appointed shall investigate the matters referred to them and present to the President a report setting out the facts as found by them and making such recommendations as they think proper.
- (3) 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.

ARTICLE 341:

Scheduled Castes—

- (1) The President ¹⁶[may with respect to any State ¹⁷[or Union Territory], and where it is a State^{18***}, after consultation with the Governor^{19.***} thereof,] by public notification²⁰, specify the castes, races or tribes or parts of or groups within castes, races or tribes which shall for the purposes of this Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Castes in relation to that State ¹⁷[or Union territory, as the case may be].
- (2) Parliament may by law include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Castes specified in a notification under clause (1) any caste, race or tribe or part of or group within any caste, race or tribe, but save as aforesaid a notification issued under the said clause shall not be varied by any subsequent notification.

¹⁶ Subs. by the Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951, s. 10, “may, after consultation with the Governor or Rajpramukh of a State”.

¹⁷ Ins. by the Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act, 1956, s. 29 and Sch.

¹⁸ The words and letters “specified in Part A or Part B of the First Schedule” omitted by s. 29 and Sch. *ibid*.

¹⁹ The words “or Rajpramukh” omitted by s. 29 and Sch. *ibid*

²⁰ See the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 (C.O.19), Constitution (Scheduled Castes) (Union Territories) Order, 1951 (C.O. 32), the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order, 1956 (C.O. 52), The Constitution (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) Scheduled Castes Order, 1962 (C. O. 64), the Constitution (Pondicherry) Scheduled Castes Order, 1964 (C.O. 68), The Constitution (Goa, Daman and Diu) Scheduled Castes Order, 1968 (C.O. 81) and the Constitution (Sikkim) Scheduled Castes Order, 1978 (C.O. 110).

ARTICLE 342:
Scheduled Tribes—

- (1) The President ²¹[may with respect to any State ¹⁷[or Union territory], and where it is a State ^{18***}, after consultation with the Governor^{19***} thereof,] by public notification²², specify the tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities which shall for the purposes of this Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Tribes in relation to that State ¹⁷[or Union territory, as the case may be].
- (2) Parliament may by law include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Tribes specified in a notification issued under clause (1) any tribe or tribal community or part of or group within any tribe or tribal community, but save as aforesaid a notification issued under the said clause shall not be varied by any subsequent notification.

ARTICLE 366:
Definitions—

In this Constitution, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them, that is to say--

(23) "Schedule" means a Schedule to this Constitution.

(24) "Scheduled Castes" means such castes, races or tribes or parts of or groups within such castes, races or tribes as are deemed under article 341 to be Scheduled Castes for the purposes of this Constitution;

(25) "Scheduled Tribes" means such tribes or tribal communities or parts or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this Constitution.

²¹ Subs. by the Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951, s. 11, for "may after consultation with the Governor or Rajpramukh of a State".

²² See the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, (C.O.22), the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) (Union Territories) Order, 1951, (C.O.33), the Constitution (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1959 (C.O.58), the Constitution (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1962 (C.O.65), the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes)(Uttar Pradesh) Order, 1967(C.O.78), the Constitution (Goa, Daman and Diu) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1968 (C.O.82), the Constitution (Nagaland) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1970 (C.O. 88), and the Constitution (Sikkim) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1978 (C.O. 111)