

CENTRAL ACTS CONSTITUTING NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR WELFARE OF SC,  
ST AND OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES AS ALSO NATIONAL SAFAI KARMACHARI  
COMMISSION AND RULES MADE THEREUNDER

(a) the Constitution (Sixty-fifth Amendment) Act to constitute National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

**MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE**  
**(Legislative Department)**

New Delhi, the 8<sup>th</sup> June, 1990/Jaistha 18, 1912 (Saka)

The following Act of Parliament received the assent of the President on the 7<sup>th</sup> June, 1990, and is hereby published for general information:--

**THE CONSTITUTION (SIXTY-FIFTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 1990**

( 7<sup>th</sup> June, 1990)

An Act further to amend the Constitution of India.

Be it enacted by Parliament in the Forty-first Year of the Republic of India as follows:--

1. (1) This act may be called the Constitution (Sixty-fifth Amendment) Act, 1990.

**Short title  
and  
commencement.**

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. In article 338 of the Constitution,--

**Amendment of article 338**

(a) for the marginal heading, the following marginal heading shall be substituted, namely:--

“National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes”;

(b) for clauses (1) and (2), the following clauses shall be substituted, namely:--

“(1) There shall be a Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to be known as the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

(2) Subject to the provisions of any law made in this behalf by Parliament, the Commission shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and five other Members and the conditions of service and tenure of office of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and other Members so appointed shall be such as the President may by rule determine.

(3) The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and other Members of the Commission shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.

(4) The Commission shall have the power to regulate its own procedure.

(5) It shall be duty of the Commission—

- (a) to investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under this Constitution or under any other law for the time being in force or under any order of the Government and to evaluate the working of such safeguards;
  - (b) to enquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;
  - (c) to participate and advise on the planning process of socio-economic development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and to evaluate the progress of their development under the Union and any State;
  - (d) to present to the President , annually and at such other time as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the working of those safeguards;
  - (e) to make in such reports recommendations as to the measures that should be taken by Union or any State for the effective implementation of those safeguards and other measures for the protection, welfare and socio-economic development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and
  - (f) to discharge such other functions in relation to the protection, welfare and development and advancement of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as the President may, subject to the provisions of any law made by Parliament, by rule specify.
- (6) The President shall cause all such reports to be laid before each House of Parliament along with a memorandum explaining the action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations relating to the Union and the reasons for the non-acceptance, if any, of any of such recommendations.
- (7) Where any such report, or any part thereof, relates to any matter with which any State Government is concerned a copy of such report shall be forwarded to the Governor of the State who shall cause it to be laid before the Legislature of the State along with a memorandum explaining the action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations relating to the State and the reasons for the non-acceptance, if any, of any of such recommendations.

- (8) The Commission shall, while investigating any matter referred to in sub-clause (a) or inquiring into any complaint referred to in sub-clause (b) of clause (5), have all the powers of a civil court trying a suit and in particular respect of the following matters, namely :--
- (a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of Indian and examining him on oath;
  - (b) requiring the discovery and production of any documents;
  - (c) receiving evidence on affidavits;
  - (d) requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office;
  - (e) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses and documents;
  - (f) any other matter which the President may by rule, determine.
- (9) The Union and every State Government shall consult the commission on all major policy matters affecting Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.”;

<sup>1</sup>[(10)] In this article, references to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes shall be construed as including references to such other backward classes as the President may, on receipt of the report of a Commission appointed under Clause (1) of article 340, by order specify and also to the Anglo-Indian community.

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<sup>1</sup> Clause (3) renumbered as Clause (10) by the Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act, 1956, s. 2 (w. e. f. 12-3-92)