

10% forward quota to kick in from Feb 1, with zero tweaks

Govt Sticks To Original Specs Despite Gehlot Statement

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The economically weaker sections (EWS) in the general category will be eligible for 10% quota in central government jobs notified on or after February 1. An office memorandum issued by the department of personnel and training has stuck to the eligibility criteria for EWS quota approved by the Union Cabinet and Parliament and signed into law by the President.

As per the office memorandum of January 19, persons not covered under the existing scheme of reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Socially and Educationally Backward and whose family has gross annual income below Rs 8 lakh are to be identified as EWS to be eligible for the quota.

'Family' for this purpose would include the person who seeks the quota, his/her parents and siblings aged under 18 as also his/her spouse and minor children. 'Income' would include income from all sources, i.e. salary, agriculture, business, profession etc and pertain to the financial year prior to the year of the application.

As approved by the Cabinet, all persons whose families own any of these assets — 5 acres of agriculture land and above; residential flat of 1000 sq ft or above; residential plot of 100 sq yards and above in notified municipalities or residential plot of 200 sq yards



Social justice minister Thawar Chand Gehlot (maroon cap) after passage of the 10% forward quota Bill in Rajya Sabha on January 9. Gehlot had said that the original EWS criteria could be changed

and above in areas other than the notified municipalities — would be excluded from being identified as EWS, irrespective of family income.

Incidentally, adherence to the original EWS criteria approved by the government runs contrary to social justice minister Thawar Chand Gehlot's indication earlier that such criteria could be revisited as

and when they were notified.

As per the DoPT memorandum, income and assets of families of persons seeking to avail 10% EWS quota would have to be certified by an officer not below the rank of tehsildar in states/UTs. The memorandum said the quota would be available for direct recruitment vacancies notified/advertised starting February 1, 2019.