

More seats in institutes to adjust for 10% quota: PM

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New Delhi: On the day the president gave his assent to the constitutional amendment providing reservation to the economically backward in government jobs and educational institutions, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced seats will be increased by 10% to accommodate the general category students availing the quota.

Addressing the BJP national convention, Modi said the 10% quota for the general category will empower the country's youth, who were deprived of equal opportunity, even as he insisted it would not affect the existing quota for SCs, STs and OBCs.

"The 10% quota for the poor youth is not only reservation but an effort to give a new dimension to the lives of the youth, who were deprived of equal opportunity due to

poverty. Those who were deprived of opportunity on caste basis will get equal opportunity," Modi said.

Modi referred to comments by some like Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mewani, who claimed quota based on economic status is a move towards ending caste-based reservation policy.

"We have to be careful about efforts being made to misguide people about the quota for the general category youth. Certain people are

trying to misinterpret the move, which has to be countered strongly by party cadres," Modi said adding, "We should keep telling people the existing quota system has not been disturbed."

Modi made it clear that party has tried to reach out to the upper castes but at the same time it remains committed to the SC/ST and OBCs as he repeatedly emphasised that the existing quota will not be disturbed in future too.