



On Social Policy and Reservation

(Statement adopted by the National Executive of the Lok Dal at its meeting held in New Delhi on 10th, 11th and 12th April, 1981).

The Lok Dal is of opinion that democratic system which the country has adopted, cannot be harmonised with the caste system based on birth. Any attempt to perpetuate this caste system will weaken the foundations of democracy.

The Lok Dal does not regard the reservation system as ideal. Nor do we want to make it permanent. But we must unambiguously state that the ideas and tests about merit, competitive selection and equal opportunities are bogus and irrelevant in an unequal society. The adoption of the principle of special opportunities and reservation, therefore, is inevitable if we want to remove the age old injustice and end the oppression and exploitation of large sections of our population.

The issue^{is} whether we should continue the already existing system of vast and disproportionate reservation on the basis of birth and traditional social dominance as also "reservation by the purse" or adopt a system of special opportunities and reservation for the socially backward and disadvantaged sections designed to raise these classes and about social equality.

The Lok Dal suggest an expanded system of reservation in services in terms of four broad categories. The social, educational, cultural and economic condition of people falling

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in each category would be comparatively equal. Each category would get representation in services proportionate to their population. This would be just and equitable to all.

1. The first category would consist of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. These already enjoys constitutional protection. This reservation should be continued.
2. In the second category should be placed all the backward communities, irrespective of religion. The share in services of all those who fall in this category should be equal to their strength in the total population.
3. In the third category should be placed groups which are generally known as Kisan communities (but excluding those included in the fourth category). Some of these communities are not considered backward in certain states and enjoy no protection. They should, therefore, be given a share in services proportionate to their population.
4. The last category should be confined to the upper castes such as Brahmins, including Bhumihars, Kayasthas, Thakurs, etc. and some advanced sections belonging to minorities also. These groups are today over-represented in the services. Their quota should be restricted to their strength in the total population.

There should be competition and merit test only within the category and not between different categories.

The Lok Dal holds that a definite policy decision also will have to be taken to the effect that in gazetted services young people who have contracted or are willing to contract inter-caste marriages alone should be recruited. This would set in motion a new process of integration, and brings about a radical change in the country's ethos.

A constitutional amendment will be necessary to give an effect to this policy. This should be done.