

## Rajasthani Gujjars get 5% reservation



Following the violent protests by the Gujjars of Rajasthan demanding for reservation in jobs and education, the Rajasthan Assembly passed a Bill confirming 5% reservation quota for the community under Special Backward Classes category within the state.

In the backdrop were several dozen Gujjars huddling down at railway tracks in Madhopur, winding down the fifth straight day of protest for special 5% reservation in government jobs and educational institutes - a protest that had paralysed transportation in Rajasthan since almost a week. As per the protestors, Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot had promised granting 5% reservation for Gujjars during the election campaigns in Karauli last year, if his party Congress won.

On Wednesday, an assembly meeting was held and the Ashok Ghelot-led Rajasthan government anonymously passed a Bill granting the promised reservation to the Gujjar community. As per the Bill, a separate 5% quota will be given to Gujjars for state jobs and educational institutes in Rajasthan. Since the state has already touched the 50% reservation quota ceiling defined in the Constitution, the additional reservation is achieved by clubbing them with four other backward communities as "more backward class" aka MBC within the OBC category.

The Bill also expands the income limit for defining creamy layer in OBC from Rs 2.5 lakh to Rs 8 lakh per year, and the assembly also passed the 10% EWS (economically weaker section) quota as proposed by Delhi. The next step would be to pass on the proposed Bill titled as "Rajasthan Backward Classes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutes in the State and of Appointments and Posts in Services under the State) Amendment Bill, 2019" and request the Centre for making an amendment in the Constitution to make the implementation possible.