Appendices
APPENDIX-I
THE IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
MANDAL COMMISSION

Reservations

In a democratic setup every individual and community has a legitimate right and aspiration to participate in ruling this country. Any situation that results in a near denial of this right to nearly 52% of the country's population needs to be urgently rectified. The chief merit of reservations is not that it will introduce egalitarianism among the OBCs when all sorts of inequalities seize the rest of the Indian society. But reservation will certainly erode the hold of higher castes on the services and enabled OBCs in general to have a sense of participation in running affairs of their country. The population of OBCs (both Hindu and non-Hindu) is around 52% of the total population. But in view of the Supreme Court judgments which hold that the total quantum of reservation under Articles 15(4) and 16(4) should be below 50%, the proposed reservations for OBCs would have to be pegged at a figure which, when added to 22.5% for SCs and STs, remains below 50%. So the Commission was obliged to recommend a reservation 27% only, even though their population is almost twice the figure.

States that have already introduced reservation for OBCs exceeding 27% will remain unaffected by this recommendation. In addition the Commission proposes the "overall scheme of reservation" for OBCs: (a) candidates recruited on merit basis (i.e., open competition) should not be adjusted against their quota of 27%. (b) The above reservation should be applied to promotions at all levels, (c) Relaxation of upper age limit for direct recruitment should be extended to the OBCs also, (d) The above scheme of reservation, in Toto, should also be applied to all recruitments to; public sector undertakings (both Central and States); nationalized banks; all private undertakings which have received financial assistance from the Government; and all Universities and affiliated colleges.

Educational Concessions

Though our educational system is elitist in character and least suited to the needs of backward classes, they are forced to run the rat race with other, as no options are available to them. "As educational reform was not within the terms of reference of
this Commission, we are forced to suggest only palliative measures within the existing framework”. Various state Governments are giving a number of educational concessions to the OBC students—scholarships, exemption of fees, special hostels etc. They are all right as far as they go but they are not enough. What is required the framing of integrated schemes for creating the proper environment and incentives for purposeful studies.

Most backward class children are irregular and indifferent students and their dropout rate is very high. So an intensive and time bound programme for adult education should be launched in pockets with high concentration of OBC population; and residential school should be setup in these areas for the backward class students. As the OBCs cannot afford the high wastage rates of our educational system, their education should be highly biased in favour of vocational training. Even if all the above facilities are given to the OBC students, they will not be able to compete with others. Therefore, 27% of seats in all scientific, technical and professional institutions—run by the Central and State governments—should be reserved for OBC students.

Financial Assistance

Rural artisans following hereditary occupations have suffered heavily as a result of industrialization. So suitable institutional finance, through separate financial institutions and technical assistance have to be provided to such members of village vocational communities who want to set up small scale industries. Cooperative societies of hereditary occupational groups would help the backward classes a great deal. The share of OBCs in the industrial and business life of the country is negligible. As a part of its over all strategy to uplift the backward classes, it is imperative that tall State Governments are suitable advised and encouraged to create a separate net work of financial and technical institutions to foster business and industrial enterprise among OBCs.

Structural Changes

Educational and job reservations, and all possible financial assistance will remain mere palliatives unless the problem of backwardness is tackled at its root. As most of the functionaries of the government are drawn from the "top peasantry" the class and caste linking between the functionaries and the top peasantry remains firm.
This tilts the socio-political balance and helps the top peasantry in maintaining its dominance over others.

Despite constituting nearly three-fourths of the country's population, the SCs, STs, and OBCs have been able to acquire a very limited political clout. Through their literal monopoly of means of production, the higher castes are able to manipulate and coerce the backward classes into acting against their own interests. Until the stranglehold of the underprivileged on the dominant higher castes will continue indefinitely. The implementation of various land reform legislations has been halting, half-hearted and superficial. The States like Karnataka, Kerala and West Bengal which gone about the job more earnestly have not only succeeded in materially helping the backward classes, but also reaped rich political dividends in the bargain.

A radical transformation of the existing production relations is the most important single step that can be taken for the welfare and upliftment of all backward classes. Even if this is not possible in the industrial sector for various reasons, in the agriculture sector a change of this nature is both feasible and overdue.

Miscellaneous:

Backward Classes Development Corporations should be set up both at the Central and State levels to implement various developmental schemes for their advancement. A Separate Ministry for OBCs at the Center and In the States should be created to safeguard their interests. The Commission strongly recommends that all development programs specially designed for the OBCs should be financed by the Central Government in the same manner and to the same extent as done in the case of SCs and STS. Regarding the period of operation of the Commissions recommendations. The entire scheme should be reviewed after twenty years.