

## **Baalu favours parliamentary panel for OBCs**

New Delhi, July 2: Stressing the need for an urgent quantification of OBC quota, Union Shipping Minister T R Baalu today demanded constitution of a high powered Parliamentary Committee on the lines of the SC/ST panel to look into the affairs relating to OBCs.

Addressing the National Seminar on Social Justice to OBCs organised by Pattali Makkal Katchi here, the Minister also said the OBC population was demanding the enactment of the law ensuring 27 per cent quota in elite educational institutions.

"The OBC people are of the clear view that how come the prospect of the employment could be fruitfully achieved without adequate educational background, which some how has been missing link so far," Baalu said.

He said the government constituted two Commissions to provide advise to the government in this regard but nothing happened.

"The OBCs are skeptical on the avoidabale delay of more than five decades in realising this dream, which is not fully realised as yet for want of a proper quantification and requisite government instructions," Baalu said.

On merit vs quality debate, the DMK leader said the media-hyped criticism ignored the recent achievements of OBC students in securing high positions of merit.

"Out of the 1224 seats in 12 **Tamil Nadu** medical colleges, the first 14 ranks in the entrance test was secured by OBC students. Forward community students could win only six ranks in first 100 ranks," he said.

Similarly, in the Civil Services tests 3rd and 4th ranks were secured by OBCs while six SC/ST students were in the first 20, he added.

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