

‘No info on 2018 plan to collect OBC data’

Census won't cover castes: RTI reply

VIJAITA SINGH

NEW DELHI

The Office of the Registrar General of India (RGI) has said that deliberations and file notings regarding the Centre's announcement in 2018 to collect data on Other Backward Classes (OBC) as part of Census 2021 is not available with it.

The RGI, in its response to an RTI query filed by *The Hindu*, added that data on castes, communities and OBCs, other than the notified Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, are not collected in the Census.

On August 31, 2018, the Ministry of Home Affairs announced that OBC data would be collected for the first time in the next Census. The press release, titled "Union Home Minister reviews preparation for Census 2021", said: "It is also envisaged to collect data on OBC for the first time."

The first phase of 2021 Census, The House listing and Housing Census, to be conducted along with an update of the National Population Register from April 1, 2020, has been postponed

due to the pandemic.

The RGI, which works under the administrative control of the MHA, conducts the decennial Census exercise.

In response to the RTI application pertaining to the deliberations that took place in the RGI's office before the announcement in 2018 to collect data on OBCs, the office replied: "The information sought in the RTI application is not available with the undersigned."

The reply added: "It may be informed that the Office of the RGI in MHA is conducting decennial population Census since 1951 in which it collects and publishes data on various socio-demographic profiles of the people of India including those of the notified Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) of all States and Union Territories. The data on the castes/communities/OBCs, other than the notified SCs and STs are not collected in Census." It said the last Census was conducted in 2011.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10