

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s).1286/2026

OBC FEDERATION OF INDIA

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

Date : 28-10-2026 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI
HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE V. MOHANA

For Petitioner(s) : Mr. Rameshwar Thakur, Adv.
Mr. Ashok Sharma, adv.
Mrs. Anjani Aiyagari- 1155, AOR
Ms. Vandana Khanorkar, Adv.

For Respondent(s) :

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

1. The OBC Federation of India, claiming itself to be a registered society, has approached this Court under Article 32 of the Constitution of India, seeking a direction that the recognised list of the Other Backward Castes (OBCs) be pre-loaded as a drop-down menu in the digital census tools against the caste question (Column No.10) of the census 2027, the schedule whereof has been notified on 14.08.2026. It is averred that as per the population enumeration schedule notified on 14.08.2026, while Column No.10 provides for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Caste, but apart from SC/ST, there is an open text field and each person has to describe their caste in their own words.

2. Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that an open field

will repeat the failure of the Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011, and that the Union of India/statutory authority should add a drop-down menu for selection of castes in the same manner as the practice was adopted in the Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011.

3. The issue highlighted, in our considered opinion, essentially pertains to a policy decision, which can be effectively addressed by the policy makers.

4. We, therefore, without expressing any opinion on merits, dispose of this Writ Petition with liberty to the petitioner to approach the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, to whom a copy of this writ petition may be forwarded as a representation, to enable that authority to look into the issue highlighted on behalf of the petitioner.

5. Pending applications, if any, also stand disposed of.

(ARJUN BISHT)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI DILEEP KUMAR)
DY. REGISTRAR