Inclusion/Exclusion from SC/ST List

Prelims: *Current events of national and international relations | Polity & Governance*

Why in news?

A proposal from the State Government of Bihar for inclusion of Krishi Vaishya/Chasot in the Scheduled Tribes list.

- **Constitutional Provisions –** ***Article 341 (SCs) & 342 (STs),*** which authorise the President to specify SCs/STs *in consultation with* the Governor, but only Parliament can alter these lists through law.
- **Parliament's Role –** Parliament has the ***sole power*** to include or exclude any caste/tribe from the lists through legislation, overriding any later executive action.

Process of Inclusion/Exclusion from SC/ST Lists

- **Initiation at State/UT level –** The concerned State/UT recommend the addition or removal of a community based on studies and socio-economic assessments.
- **Union Government scrutiny –** The proposal is examined by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs/Social Justice, Registrar General of India (RGI), and National Commissions (SC/ST).
- **Legislative process –**
  - A Bill is introduced in Parliament to amend the ***Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 or the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.***
  - The Bill must be passed by both Houses of Parliament.
- **Presidential Notification –** Under ***Articles 341 & 342***, the President issues the final notification, giving legal effect to the inclusion/exclusion.
- **Criteria**
  - **Scheduled Castes (SCs) –** Extreme, social, educational and economic backwardness arising out of the traditional practice of untouchability.
  - **Scheduled Tribes (ST) –** Ethnological traits, traditional characteristics, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, and social & economic backwardness.

Census 2011

- **SC list –** They spread across 31 States/UTs with 1,241 notified communities.
  - **Population** – Over 20 crore (Approx. ***16.6%*** of India's population)
- **ST list –** They are notified in 30 States/UTs, with 705 individual tribes/communities under Article 342.
  - **Population** – Over 10 crore (Approx. ***8.6%*** of India's population).

References

1. PIB | Inclusion of Krishi Vaishya/Chasot in ST list
2. The Hindu | Inclusion/exclusion from the ST list
3. Digital Sansad | Inclusion in SC list

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