

2. However, because of the lack of reliability of the data collected, or its political and electoral sensitivity, the caste portion of the SECC has not been disclosed so far.
3. The State government could possibly seek access to this data pertaining to Tamil Nadu as part of its exercise.
4. In 2017, government constituted an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of former Finance Secretary Shri Sumit Bose for:
 - a. Studying the objective criteria for allocation of resources to States and
 - b. Identification and prioritization of beneficiaries under various programme using Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) data.
5. Expert Group has observed that regular updation and verification of SECC data is essential for improved targeted delivery of essential services.

Need for collecting and compiling caste-wise data:

1. It is equally true that there is a social and legal necessity for compiling caste-wise data.
2. The Supreme Court has been asking States to produce quantifiable data to justify their levels of reservation, and it would help Tamil Nadu to retain its 69% total reservation.
3. At the same time, some castes that have either electoral or numerical importance across India have been restive about the manner in which **affirmative action programmes** based on classes and communities have been implemented so far.
4. Be it the Gujjars, or Jats or the Patidars, or the Vanniyars, some sections have been linking their prospects of advancement to exclusive reservation.
5. It will present the correct picture of socio-economic status of various castes in any particular state.
6. Such data will help the state government to ensure how much reservation is actually necessary for any given caste.
7. **Comprehensive caste-based data** will help to figure out the economic status of various castes in different states.
8. State can plan accordingly their welfare schemes for the most backward castes based on their **need and socio-economic conditions.**
9. In Tamil Nadu, sections of the Vanniyars, whose violent 1987-88 agitation resulted in the creation of a 'most backward classes' category entitled to 20% reservation, are apparently dissatisfied about being clubbed with over a hundred other castes.