Thawar Chand Gehlot says only Parliament can do it

The Uttar Pradesh government’s move to shift 17 Other Backward Classes (OBCs) to the Schedule Caste list is unconstitutional, and it is a transgression of Parliament’s jurisdiction, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thawar Chand Gehlot said in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

“This is not proper and not constitutional,” he said in reply to Satish Chandra Misra of the BSP, who raised the issue during Zero Hour.

Agreeing with Mr. Misra, Mr. Gehlot said that only Parliament had the right to alter the notified list.

“This issue came to Parliament a couple of times, but no consensus could be formed,” he said, adding that if the government followed due process, it could be considered.

“I would request the State not to make caste certificates on the basis of such orders because they will be dismissed by courts and it will be of no help to anyone,” he added.

On June 24, the State government directed District Magistrates and Commissioners to issue caste certificates to the 17 OBCs.

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