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**SC for status quo, stays quota in promotion**

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New Delhi: The Supreme Court stayed on Monday reservation in promotion for Scheduled Castes and Tribes (SC/STs) in government jobs after the Centre and states failed to implement the scheme for want of quantifiable data on the adequacy of their representation.

Hearing a batch of 84 petitions filed by the Centre, states and other individuals, a bench of Justices S.A. Bobde and Abdul Nazeer directed that status quo be maintained till the issue is decided by it.

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# Final hearing on reservation in promotion on October 15: SC

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**A** five-judge Constitution bench of the court had, in September last year, said reservation in promotion could be implemented but ruled that the "creamy layer exclusion" principle, which applied only to other backward classes, could be extended to SCs and STs to deny quota benefits to the "elite" among the two socially underprivileged communities.

The apex court had exempted states from collecting quantifiable data on backwardness to justify reservation in promotion by modifying its earlier order in the Nagraj case but held that its 2016 verdict was correct in stipulating the condition on the need for quantifiable data on adequacy of representation. The court said a study is needed on the impact of

**Lawyers appearing for the state governments contended that SC should adjudicate the issue at the earliest as thousands of posts were lying vacant due to non-implementation of the policy**

such promotions on administrative efficiency before granting reservation.

The Constitution bench had left it for a regular bench to decide petitions filed by individuals and states on the issue.

Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan and advocate Kumar Parimal, appearing for government employees from the general category, told the bench that reservation in promotion could not be implemented without fulfilling the conditions laid down in earlier cases.

Lawyers appearing for the state governments contended that the SC

should adjudicate the issue to rest the controversy as the thousands of posts were lying vacant due to non-implementation of the policy and pleaded the bench decide the issue at the earliest.

The court, which had earlier directed Maharashtra, Tripura and other states to maintain status quo, said it was not possible to give an early hearing and posted for October 15 for final hearing.