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PAPER CLIPPINGS

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ: DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Other state matters

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Deccan Herald ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 28/6/19

# Bombay HC okays Maratha jobs quota

But says 16% is more, it  
could be 12-13%

Mrityunjay Bose

**MUMBAI: The Bombay High Court on Thursday gave its stamp of approval to the Maharashtra government for providing reservation to the Maratha community for jobs and education.**

However, it said that the 16% reservation approved by the state legislature was not justifiable and suggested that it be reduced to 12% or 13%.

It may be recalled Maharashtra State Backward Classes Commission has recommended a reservation to the Maratha community.

Accordingly, the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance government created a special category of Socially and Educationally Backward Class (SEBC) to provide reservation.

A division bench of the Bombay High Court, comprising Justices Ranjit More and Bharti Dongre, said that the state government's competence is not affected in any way by the 102nd amendment of the Con-

stitution.

"The state possess the legislative competence to enact the SEBC Act of 2018 and provide reservation to the Maratha community," the judges said.

The Maharashtra government and the legislature welcomed the judgement.

"The court has upheld the reservation to the Maratha community that the legislature has passed," Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis told the Vidhan Sabha amid thumping of desks by both the Treasury and Opposition benches.

They judges made it clear that they were aware that the Supreme Court had said quota should not exceed 50% and that this, however, should be based on quantifiable data.

Opposition parties Congress and NCP welcomed the development.

"It is a victory of Sakal Maratha Samaj... we want that reservation be granted to Dhangers and Muslims," said state Congress president Ashok Chavan.

DH News Service