ORDER

The office has placed before me an Office Memorandum bearing no. F.no.20013/01/2018-BC-II of the Govt. of India Ministry of Social Justice & empowerment, Dept of Social Justice & empowerment issued by Sh. B. L. Meena, Joint Secretary, Govt. of India.

As per the O.M. it has been stated that every educational institution shall with the prior approval of the appropriate authority increase the no. of Seats over & above its annual permitted strength in each branch of study or Faculty so that the no. of seats available, excluding those reserved for the persons belonging to EWS are not less than the total sets available in the academic session immediately preceding date of coming into force of the referred OM.

The O.M. further states that in pursuance of insertion of clauses 15(6) & 16(6) in the constitution, vide the constitution(103rd Amendment) Act, 2019 and in order to enable the EWS who are not covered under the existing scheme of reservations for the Scheduled tribes and the socially and Educationally Backward Classes, to receive the benefits of reservation on a preferential basis in civil posts and services in the Government of India and admission in Educational Institutions, it has been decided by the Government to provide 10% reservation to EWSs in civil posts and services in Government of India and admission in Educational Institutions.

The Bar Council of India, has till now has not been keen to provide any reservation of seats over and above the sanctioned strength of seats as it did not wish to compromise on the quality of legal professionals. However, here is a case where it is seen Government of India is trying to help the underprivileged and economically weaker sections in the society gain a foothold for themselves and is trying to give them an opportunity to success in life. The Bar Council of India, therefore, has reconsidered the earlier decision taken in this regard not to allow reservation of seats over and above the sanctioned strength and infact welcomes such an initiative and hereby agrees to allow all Law Colleges/Law Departments to reserve 10% seats for the Economically Weaker Sections over & above its annual permitted strength in lines of the decision taken by the Government of India.

sd/-
CHAIRMAN
BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA