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No. 12018/4/2005-SCD (R.L.Cell)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

not been consulted on the above Bill, as required by clause (9) of Article 338 of the Constitution, the then Ministry of Welfare consulted the NCSCST on the issue, which, in their letter-dated 07.08.1996 (copy at **Annexure-IV, p.21-26**) opined that there seems to be no justification to include Dalit Christians in the list of Scheduled Castes. Besides, they also observed as follows:-

"Identifying Dalit Christians is a practical problem since no details of their caste, before conversion, are available in our authenticated records. Non-availability of such records will further lead to increased cases of fake certificates, which is presently a growing menace."

2.11 The Cabinet Committee on SCs, STs & Minorities approved certain Modalities in June, 1999, (and further modified them in June, 2002), in which the procedure for modification in the lists of Scheduled Castes was specified. (copy at **Annexure-V, p.27-28**). As per these modalities, on the proposals of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, it was essentially required to obtain comments of the Registrar General of India (RGI) and National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (NCSCST) before proposing any modification in the list of Scheduled Castes. Accordingly requests were made to the RGI and the NCSCST to furnish their comments in this matter. Registrar General of India did not agree to the proposal to include Scheduled Castes converts to Christianity in the list of Scheduled Castes vide their letter dated 14.3.2001. (copy of the Comments of RGI are at **Annexure-VI, p.29-33**). The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) which was consulted for the second time, also did not agree to the proposal vide their letter dated 19.10.2000. (copy of the comments of NCSC are at **Annexure-VII, p.34-37**).

2.12. Likewise, on the proposal of inclusion of Scheduled Castes converts to Islam religion in the list of Scheduled Castes, the Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes did not agree vide their letters dated 3.4.2001 and 11.8.2003 respectively.

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