

Annexure-XII
(refer to para 3.2 page 8 of the Note)

Main Grounds of six petitions

The main grounds mentioned in these petitions are that: -

- (i) The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders, are discriminatory and violative of Articles 14, 15 & 16 of the Constitution, inasmuch as they discriminate between persons who profess Hindu, Sikh or Buddhist religion, and those who profess other religions, which is contrary to the basic structure of the Constitution and violative of fundamental rights.
- (ii) Scheduled Tribe converts to Christianity continue to remain within the purview of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, while Scheduled Caste converts to Christianity and Islam are denied this benefit.
- (iii) Benefits of reservation have been extended to Scheduled Castes converts from Hinduism to Sikhism and Buddhism even though these religions also, like Christianity and Islam are egalitarian and do not recognize caste system.
