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

Muslim counter parts. DCs are at the other end of spectrum as Non-Dalit Christians are much better off. However, DCs are closest to Dalit Sikhs, who are better off in whole group of Dalits.

(iii)   **Average levels of consumption** confirm that other than Dalit Sikhs, 75% of all other Dalits are economically indistinguishable from each other.

(iv)   With respect to **comparisons of occupational structure**, DMs are not worse off and are well represented in "self employed in agriculture" in rural areas. In urban area, DMs are highest in proportion in "casual labour" category and lowest in "regular wage." DCs are between Buddhists and Sikhs(who have slightly better profile) and Muslims and Hindus (who have worse profile) in rural areas. In urban areas, DCs are in highest proportion in "regular wage" and are almost equal to Dalit Sikhs.

(v)   With respect to **comparisons of educational levels**, DMs are worst off in rural India in terms of illiteracy. DCs are slightly better off in rural areas and significantly better off in urban India.

For the purpose of analysis, unit level data of 61st round of NSSO has been used.

3.   A Brief Critique of the Study

3.1   NSSO collects data on various household characteristics, out of these two are – religion and social group. In case of religion, data is codified by Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhist and others. In case of social groups, data is codified by Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and others. The analysis has been done using cross-classified data based on these two characteristics.

3.2   Estimated numbers of Dalit Muslims and Dalit Christian and also their classification by expenditure classes, occupational classes and educational level does not seem reliable for the following reasons:-

(i) Number of sample households for Dalit Muslims and Dalit Christians (percentage of households of all sample households in the sector) separately for Rural and Urban areas is given below:-