

shyness of contact with the community at large and backwardness among them and that professing of any religion is not a point of consideration.

2.17. A note for CCPA was prepared, during the year 2005, for obtaining its decision on the issue of inclusion of SCs converted to Christianity/Islam in the list of Scheduled Castes. The CCPA, in its meeting held on 22.08.2005, directed that more time be sought from the Supreme Court for filing the affidavit. (Annexure-X, p.47). This note at the draft stage was circulated to the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. The comments of these Ministries on the draft note are at Annexure-XI, p.48.

3. Cases pending in Supreme Court about making specification as SCs, religion neutral

3.1 A number of Writ Petitions are now pending in the Supreme Court challenging the Constitutional validity of the said para 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order~1950. Based on their contents, these may be subdivided as follows:-

3.1.1 Pleading for SC status for converts to Christianity who may originally have belonged to castes, which are currently specified as SC(hereafter referred to as "SC converts to Christianity" or "Dalit Christians").

- (i) Civil Writ Petition No. 180 of 2004(filed by Centre for Public Interest Litigation & Anr.)
- (ii) Civil Writ Petition No. 94/05(filed by D. David)
- (iii) Civil Writ Petition No. 625/2005(filed by All India United Christians Movement for Equal Rights)
- (iv) Civil Writ Petition No.579/2009 (filed by All India United Christians Federation, through G.V. Raju).