

National Commission for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes

MEENAKSHI HOOJA
JOINT SECRETARY
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Dear Shri Chaudhary,

Kindly refer to your letter No. 12016/30/90-SCD (R. Cell) dated 28.6.96 seeking the views of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the subject of recognition of Scheduled Caste converts to Christianity as Scheduled Castes.

The matter has been considered in the Commission and its views are as under:-

However, it is strongly felt that the inclusion of Dalit Christians in the category of Scheduled Castes for the purpose of reservation is neither desirable nor justifiable on the following grounds:

- (i) 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.
- (ii) The Christians are adequately represented in the services; accounting for 2.30% of the total population of the country, the representation of Christians is 2.74% in IAS, 2.69% in IPS, 2.67% in Banking services and 3.83% in Public Sector Undertakings. Thus it is evident that Christians have availed of better educational and other opportunities compared to the Scheduled Castes and have performed better in securing employment even without the reservation benefits.

SECRET