

(iii) With the implementation of the Mandal Commission Report, the Scheduled Castes converted to Christianity are entitled to benefits of reservation under the OBC category for which 27% reservation is already available. Government can earmark certain percentage out of 27% for Christians or go for a Constitutional amendment to increase reservation beyond 50% to accommodate such demands.

Whatever reservation for Dalit Christians is proposed, should be made outside the purview of schedule of Scheduled Castes as otherwise Christian community as a whole being better off educationally, the limited opportunities available under the present reservation to Scheduled Castes would be further reduced.

The bill which was sought to be introduced during last Session of 9th Lok Sabha is to amend the Presidential order 1950 to include Christians (not Dalit Christians) into the Presidential order. This is not in conformity of their stated demands. Besides it cuts into the kitty of SC/ST reservation which is itself not adequate for the population which has risen to about 25% in 1991 census.

A copy of the status paper on reservation for Dalit Christians giving details of the above points is also enclosed.

In the above circumstances, there seems to be no justification in including the Dalit Christians in the Scheduled Caste list.

Regards,

Yours Sincerely,

-Sd/-

(Meenakshi Hooja)

Shri A.K. Choudhary  
Joint Secretary (SCD)  
Ministry of Welfare,  
New Delhi.

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