

- 5 -

It is further pointed out that as per the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Act, 1990, the Hindu, the Sikh and the Buddhist religions are recognised for the purpose of specification of the Scheduled Castes, and, therefore, it may not be possible to examine the proposal of communities professing Muslim religion for their inclusion in the list of Scheduled Castes of Bihar.

In view thereof, this office does not support the present proposal. The Ministry of S&E may, however, examine the socio-legal aspects of this issue before taking any policy decision.