

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Demand to include Dalit Christians in the Scheduled Caste list.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Thank you Chairman Sir.

It is a long pending demand of the Dalit Christians to include them in the Scheduled Caste list.

Hon. Chairman Sir, those people from Hindu community who converted to Sikhism and Buddhism are granted all the reservations available to those communities.

But at the same time, those who have converted to Christianity are not given the reservation. So, as per Presidential Order issued under Article 341 of the Constitution in 1950 and amendments thereafter, reservation must be given to them.

Sir, by taking note of the long-standing demand that has been highlighted in several studies and commissions such as Mandal and Misra Commissions that recommended converted Christians from Dalit communities be given SC status as they continue to face discrimination.

With the grant of SC status, social and political discrimination suffered by converted Christians will be alleviated and quota benefits for education, Government jobs, panchayat elections, Assembly elections, Parliament elections as well as protection under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities Act) 1989 will be available to them.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Kindly put your demand.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : It has been more than 70 years since the demand for justice to Dalit Christians is pending and the discrimination suffered by the community will only be addressed by effective promulgation of legislative cover.

Thank you, Sir.

माननीय सभापति : माननीय सांसदगण, जिनका बैलेट में नाम नहीं था, अब मैं उन लोगों को बुला रहा हूँ । मेरा आप सभी से नम्र निवेदन है कि अपनी बात शॉर्टली एक मिनट के अंदर समाप्त करिए ।

Shri Ramshiromani Verma – not present.

Shri Vincent H. Pala – not present.

Dr. Rajdeep Roy.