

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2297  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2022**

**ABOLISH UNTOUCHABILITY IN HINDUISM**

**2297. DR. T.R. PAARIVENDHAR:  
SHRI RAMALINGAM S.:**

**Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether it is true that untouchability is not prevalent in Christianity and Islam religion because of which Scheduled Caste status could not granted to those dalits converted to either of these religion, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is also true that untouchability is still exist/prevaling in Hinduism due to which Hindu Dalits are accorded SC status across the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has taken any serious efforts to abolish untouchability in Hinduism across the country, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether the Union Government has any proposal to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Caste) Order, 1950 so as to enable to give SC tag for Dalit Muslims and Christians with the aim to abolish untouchability across the country, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
(SHRI A. NARAYANASWAMY)**

- (a) & (b): The test applied for specification of a Caste/Community as a Scheduled Caste is extreme, social, educational and economic backwardness arising out of traditional practice of untouchability, which is not recognised by the Christianity and Islam both being egalitarian religions.
- (c): Under Article 17 of the Constitution untouchability is abolished and its practice in any form is forbidden. In pursuance of the above provision, the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 has been enacted, which provides punishment for the practice of untouchability.
- (d): A number of writ petitions have been filed in the Supreme Court seeking extension of SC status to Scheduled Castes converts to Christianity and Islam. Thus the matter is sub-judice. Further a Commission under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 to examine the matter of according Scheduled Caste status to new persons, who claim to historically have belonged to the Scheduled Castes, but have converted to religion other than those mentioned in the Presidential Orders issued from time to time under Article 341 of the Constitution has been constituted vide Notification No. S.O. 4742(E) dated 06.10.2022.

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