

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6660
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2003
LEGISLATION REGARDING SC STATUS TO NEO-BUDDHISTS
A.C. JOSE;PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI;TARACHAND BHAGORA

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

(a) whether it is a fact that at the time of passing the legislation for giving Scheduled Caste status to the Neo-Buddhists in May, 1990, Government had given an assurance that Government would sympathetically consider giving the same status to Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not implementing the above assurance for so many years?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN)

(a) During discussion on the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) orders (Amendment) Bill, 1990 in Rajya Sabha, on May, 29, 1990, the Hon'ble Minister, Labour and Welfare had mentioned that cases of both the Scheduled Castes converted to Christianity and Muslim religion would be considered.

(b) The proposal concerning the issue of inclusion of Scheduled Castes converted to Christianity, in the list of Scheduled Castes has been considered by the Government in consultation with Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and it has not been possible to accede to the proposal. The Committee on Government Assurances has also been informed accordingly on 31-07-2002, in the case of Assurance given in the Rajya Sabha on 8-3-1996. As regards the proposal regarding inclusion of Scheduled Castes converted to Muslim religion, in the list of Scheduled Castes, whereas the views of the Registrar General of India have been received, the views of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are awaited.