

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1428
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2012
SC STATUS TO CONVERTED CHRISTIANS
Patel Shri Bal Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any requests from the State Government to extend Scheduled Caste status to the converted Christians of Hindu origin;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons submitted by the States for the said inclusion in the Scheduled Caste status; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI P. BALRAM NAIK)

(a) & (b) There have been demands/ requests from various quarters, including some of the State Governments to grant status of Scheduled Castes to those converts to Christianity, who may have originally belonged to castes which are currently specified as Scheduled Caste.

(c) A number of writ petitions have been filed in the Supreme Court, pleading for Scheduled Caste status for converts to Christianity, who may originally have belonged to castes which are currently specified as Scheduled Castes. The matter is presently, subjudice.