

Title: Need to include SC Christians in the scheduled caste list –Laid.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (KOTTAYAM): The Constitutional Scheduled Caste Order 1950, restricted Scheduled Castes status only to Scheduled Castes professing Hinduism later on extended to Scheduled Castes who embraced Sikhism and Buddhism. Dalit Christian have been denied their right for the last fifty nine years. National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities (NCRLM) stated that non-inclusion of SC Christians in the SC list is a discrimination based on religion and goes against the articles 14, 15 and 25 of the Constitution of India. Religion must be de-linked from caste. The discriminatory Para 3 of the Constitutional Scheduled Caste Order 1950 should be deleted by taking appropriate action. But, it is unfortunate, the Government has shelved the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities report and makes millions SC Christians continue to suffer unjustly. The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) has recommended that Scheduled Caste status must be extended to the Christians of Scheduled Castes Origin. The National Commission for Minorities too has supported the demand.

I urge the Government to extend Scheduled Caste Privileges to Dalit Christians as well as to delete paragraph 3 of the Constitution Scheduled Castes Order, 1950 at the earliest.

---