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Title: Need to extend benefits of reservations to people belonging to Scheduled Castes who have converted to Islam or Christianity.

SHRI CHARLES DIAS (NOMINATED): The people who belong to Scheduled Castes and who have converted to Islam or Christianity are not allowed to retain the benefits available to weaker sections. At the same time, if they are converted to Sikhism and Buddhism, they are eligible for all benefits for weaker sections. This is sheer discrimination and against the spirit of the Constitution.

These people are experiencing this discriminatory treatment for the last so many years. They have made representations and protest to rectify this grave injustice. This aspect has been brought to the attention of the Parliament on several occasions. But, so far no concrete steps have been taken to rectify this anomaly. This is a violation of the principles of democracy and social justice.

It is understood that justice Ranganatha Misra Commission, who has been asked to study and recommend their views in this regard, has given a report in favour of extending the benefits to the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who embrace Islam and Christianity. I urge the Central Government to take immediate steps to rectify this anomaly and do justice to these people.