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Tilte: Need to extend all benefits to Dalit Christians at par with the Dalits in the country.

SHRI P. SRINIVASA REDDY (KHAMMAM): Respected Madam Speaker, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to raise an important issue with regard to extending benefits to dalit Christians. The demand for dalit status for the dalit Christians is a long pending issue. Dalits are not defended by any religious label and include a number of castes or sections whose ancestors have converted to various religions such as Christianity.

The socioeconomic and educational conditions of dalits in India, particularly in Telangana State, have not changed significantly and they still suffer from caste stigma and are socially oppressed and economically and educationally very backward. The dalit Christians are exposed to all sorts of misery and exclusion from the use of the ordinary facilities. The Government is not extending all the benefits to dalit Christians at par with dalits. Conversion to Christianity has not given any extra benefit to dalits. By keeping faith in Christianity their social status has not changed. Moreover, they are losing facilities which other dalits are getting.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government, through this august House, to recognize the plight of dalit Christians and extend all the benefits to them as there is no significant change in their socioeconomic and educational conditions.