

Central Government resistance on Advantages to converted reserve category citizens:-

The Central Government resists the Apex Court's request for advantages for Scheduled Castes for Dalit converts to Islam and Christianity.

Affidavit filed by Centre in Hon'ble Supreme Court says "There is no authentic information to indicate that the autocratic situation that persisted in Hindu society for a long time regarding scheduled castes also existed in Christian or Islamic society."

According to the Central Government, there is no verifiable evidence that Dalit Christians or Muslims have experienced the same unjust situation as Dalit Hindus, and as a result, they cannot claim benefits that are available to Scheduled Castes [CPIL v. Union of India].

The Centre argued before the apex court that the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order of 1950, which grants Scheduled Caste status to only communities of Hindu, Buddhist, or Sikh religion, is not unconstitutional.

The argument made in the petition reflected the Hon'ble Justice Ranganath Mishra's Commission report, stating that Dalits of other religions also experience the same disadvantages as Dalits of Hinduism.

Hon'ble Justices SK Kaul, Abhay S. Oka, and Vikram Nath's panel had requested the government's response to the petition, in response to which the current affidavit was submitted.

According to the affidavit submitted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the 1950 order is not unconstitutional despite the

exclusion of Christianity and Islam because those societies do not practise the casteism system that causes some Hindu castes to be economically and socially backward.

The Centre made it clear that it has established a three-member Commission to examine whether Dalit Muslims and Dalit Christians should be considered Scheduled Castes (SCs). The petitioners should wait for the Commission's report as it will examine whether Dalit Muslims and Dalit Christians actually experience the same level of severe oppression.