

M. KARUNANIDHI
CHIEF MINISTER



CHIEF SECRETARIAT,
OMANDURAR GOVT. ESTATE,
ANNA SALAI,
CHENNAI - 600 002.

Date 25.02.2011.

D.O. Letter No. 3044/CV-1/2006, Dated 25.02.2011

Dear Sir,

I invite your kind attention to my earlier D.O. letter dated 02.04.2010, wherein, I have sought for your personal intervention to include the Scheduled Castes converted to Christianity in the list of Scheduled Castes.

2. In this connection, I am to point out that I have already addressed the Government of India in my D.O letter No.19916/ADW-II/96, dated 25.10.1996 to take necessary steps to include the Scheduled Castes Christian in the list of Scheduled Castes. Again, this Government addressed the Government of India, in this regard, vide D.O. letter No.3044/ADW-10/2006, dated 7.8.2006. The Government of Tamil Nadu have repeatedly addressed the Government of India for issuing early orders on the above issue. However, till now, no formal order has been received from Government of India.

3. According to the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order 1950; the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Modification Order, 1956 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Amendment) Order Act, 1976, "no person who professes a religion different from Hinduism or Sikhism or Buddhism shall be deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Castes".

4. In Paragraph 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Modification Order 1950, it was originally laid down that "notwithstanding anything contained in paragraph 2, no person who professes a religion different from Hinduism shall be deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Castes". But subsequently, this paragraph was amended in 1956 to include those professing Sikh religion also as members of Scheduled Castes and further it was amended in 1990 to include those professing Buddhist religion too to be considered as Schedule Castes.

5. The Government of Tamil Nadu felt that the members of Castes listed in the schedule (Scheduled Castes) have suffered social and economic discrimination irrespective of the religion professed by them. Moreover, this Government has assured to take necessary steps to ensure that all concessions available to the Scheduled Castes are extended to the Scheduled Castes who follow others religions. Further, the Governor of Tamil Nadu, has also announced on 06.01.2011 in the State Legislative Assembly that the Government of Tamil Nadu will move the Government of India for inclusion of Scheduled Castes convert Christians in the list of Scheduled Castes. Moreover, the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs held under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 21.02.2011, also discussed the above issue in the meeting. Hence, this Government considers that it would be appropriate, if paragraph 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 is deleted in toto, which would mean that those cases listed in the schedule will be treated as Scheduled Castes irrespective of religion.

6. As the issue has been pending with the Government of India for the past 15 years, I, seek your esteemed personal intervention for early inclusion of the Scheduled Castes converted Christians in the list of Scheduled Castes through an Act of Parliament meeting the requirement of Article 341(2) of the Constitution of India.

(Kind Reply)

Yours sincerely,

M. Karunanidhi

(M. KARUNANIDHI)

To

Dr. Manmohan Singh,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India,
New Delhi.

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வெளியீடு, இயக்குநர்.
செய்தி, மக்கள் தொடர்புத் துறை.
சென்னை