REQUEST TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO AMEND THE
CONSTITUTION OF INDIA, TO EXTEND SCHEDULE CASTE STATUS TO
MEMBERS OF THE SCHEDULE CASTE COMMUNITY IN INDIA WHO
HAVE CONVERTED TO CHRISTIANITY.

RESOLUTION OF THE ANDHRA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
DATE: 03.2023.

1. Scheduled Caste converts to Christianity continue to retain their disabilities
including untouchability and other economic and social backwardness even after
the conversion and therefore there is a strong legitimate basis for including them
in the list of Scheduled Castes, so as to allow them to enjoy the benefits available
to other Scheduled Castes which are enumerated in the Constitution (Scheduled
Caste) Order.

2. Government of Andhra Pradesh have extended certain non-statutory
concessions available to Scheduled Castes of Hinduism to Scheduled Castes
converted to Christianity vide G.O Ms..No.341 of SW (B2) Department dated 30-
08-1977, including economic support schemes sanctioned by AP Scheduled
Castes Cooperative Finance Corporation Limited.

3. Government of Andhra Pradesh through its inclusive approach to
development is implementing the Navaratnalu schemes for all sections of the
society on a saturation basis.

4. However, several representations have been received by the Government
that the Scheduled Caste persons who converted to Christianity continue to face
social, economic and political discrimination and that they deserve better
treatment on an equal footing as those who converted to Sikhism and Buddhism
and requested to recommend to Government of India for amendment of the
Constitution for making the Scheduled Caste converts to Christianity eligible to be
treated as Scheduled Castes.
5. The Government is of the opinion that the socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Castes of Hinduism and Scheduled Castes who converted to Christianity are one and the same, as they live in the same horizon in the outskirts of the villages, follow the same traditions and customs and suffer humiliation, discrimination in the society and none of these things change by a person converting into one or another religion. Moreover, what religion one practices is an individual's choice and it should not have any bearing on determination of the caste.

6. Based on the above mentioned observations,

The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly unanimously resolves that, 'The socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Castes of Hinduism and Scheduled Castes who converted to Christianity are one and the same, as they live in the same horizon in the outskirts of the villages, follow the same traditions and customs and suffer humiliation, discrimination in the society and none of these things change by a person converting into one or another religion. Moreover, what religion one practices is an individual's choice and it should not have any bearing on determination of the caste.

The Government of India is requested to consider amending the Constitution of India, to extend Scheduled Caste status to the members of the Scheduled Castes community in India who have converted to Christianity, so that they can enjoy the same rights, protection & benefits as all the other Scheduled Castes.

Dated: 24.03.2023

Sri Merugu Nagarjuna
Hon’ble Minister for Social Welfare