

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding setting up of a committee to study the conditions of Christian minority in the country-laid.

SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN (KOTTAYAM): Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who convert to Christianity cannot avail any benefits of reservation. While those SCs/STs who convert to Sikhism and Buddhism continue to enjoy benefits of reservations even after their conversion to the new religion. This policy is discriminatory in nature as it treats converts of different religions differently. The Sachar Committee created by the government in 2005 which submitted its report in 2006, was formed to study the social, economic and educational condition of Muslims in India. The Government should establish a new committee to study the conditions of Christian minority in the country. It should seek in its findings, the socio-economic and educational status of the community.

If the committee is established and its recommendations implemented, it would lead to upliftment of the threatened Christian minority community in the country. With the increase in threats to the minorities and desecration of churches across the nation, it is high time that the government wakes up to take an action in favour of its own citizens.

I urge upon the Government that the proposal should be considered.