

Need to bring legislation to ensure a person belonging to SC/ST category in one State is recognized as SC/ST across the States in the country ? Laid

DR. D. RAVI KUMAR (VILUPPURAM): The Union Government takes pride in promoting policies like One Nation, One Ration Card and One Nation, One Election. If uniformity in these areas is considered essential, then the same principle may also be implemented in caste certification. Caste is a national phenomenon, deeply entrenched not only in Hindu society but also among Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, and others. A Scheduled Caste (SC) person in one part of the country is also recognized as SC elsewhere. Caste transcends both religious and geographical boundaries. Therefore, the Government must amend the Constitution, ensuring that individuals belonging to the SC/ST categories in one state are recognized as SC/ST across the country. This would allow them to benefit from reservations in education and employment nationwide, not for political reservations. Currently, SC/ST individuals face discrimination in accessing reservation benefits after migrating to another state, even when their caste is listed as SC in both states. To address this injustice, a caste certificate valid across India must be issued to them. When an SC/ST person applies for a job in a different state's state services, they are denied reservation benefits. However, the same person can avail these benefits when applying for central services. This dichotomy must end.