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Title: Need to provide reservation to the Dalit Christians.

SHRI A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL): Madam Speaker, I would like to raise the issue of dalits of this nation of various religions. Dalits belonging to certain religions enjoy the benefits of Scheduled Caste but dalits who belong to certain religions are not at all able to enjoy the benefits of Scheduled Caste.

I would like to say one point in this matter because I am coming from a State where even in my constituency also there are certain people sometimes when we hear their names, it may sound that they belong to certain communities which are not under Scheduled Castes, but they are actually belonging to the Scheduled Castes. Just because of the names, we cannot identify whether they belong to Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes.

Madam, I hope you know very well, up to 1957, Dalit Christians were under the category of 'Scheduled Castes'. But, subsequently, due to a Cabinet decision, all the privileges, all the rights, all the benefits that should have been given to the Dalit Christians also were taken back. Recently, 13 communities have been included under the Scheduled Castes. Still now, these Dalits just because they have embraced certain religion or they have married to a person of another religion, the child born out of such wedlock is denied of the benefits of the Scheduled Caste.

Madam, this is a very important matter. Justice Ranganath Misra has looked into this matter. After the study on this matter, Justice Ranganath Misra has furnished a Report. That Report is still pending with the Government of India.

My humble request, through you, Madam, is this. It is high time that the Government of India should look into this matter and the Ranganath Misra Commission Report should be implemented at the earliest.

Madam, there are a number of people who should have been given the benefits and the fruits of reservation. I am not saying that it is a panacea for everything; it is a panacea for removing all the social taboos. There are people who are socially, economically and educationally backward people just because they are in certain religion, their brothers and sisters are getting the benefits and the fruits of reservation and are able to enjoy the cake but at the same time their brothers and sisters, just because they are in another religion, – these people are living under one roof and one family – are not able to enjoy the benefits of reservation.

Madam, my humble request is that the UPA-II Government should implement the Justice Ranganath Commission Report. My humble submission is that whatever religion and community the Dalits may belong to, all the Dalits should be included under the Scheduled Castes and all the benefits, all the privileges and all the rights, as enshrined in the Constitution of India, should be given to them also. It is our primary duty to protect them. Madam, this is my humble request. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Shri M.B. Rajesh is associating with the issue raised by Shri A. Sampath.