

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA**

**STARRED QUESTION NO. *204
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.05.2016**

***204. SCHEDULED CASTE STATUS TO DALIT CHRISTIANS**

DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that All India Federation of Dalit (lower caste) Christians has met the Prime Minister and handed over a Memorandum requesting for bringing out a legislation to extend Scheduled Caste status to them, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Ministry has considered their request and made any efforts to make a suitable legislation to provide Scheduled Caste status to them, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT)**

(a) & (b): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement in answer to part (a) & (b) of the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 204 for 12.05.2016 by Dr. Pradeep Kumar Balmuchu regarding Scheduled Caste status to dalit Christians.

(a): No, Sir, the All India Federation of Dalit(lower caste)Christians has not met the present Prime Minister.

(b): A number of writ petitions have been filed in the Supreme Court pleading for Scheduled Caste (SC) status for converts to Christianity, who may originally have belonged to castes, which are currently specified as SC. The matter is presently, subjudice.