

Standing Committee Report Summary

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2014

- The Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Chairperson: Mr. Ramesh Bais) submitted its report on the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2014 on December 19, 2014.
- The Bill adds certain communities to the list of Scheduled Castes in Haryana, Karnataka, Odisha, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. The Committee agreed with the addition of these communities to the list of Scheduled Castes.
- The Committee recommended that the socio-economic and caste surveys being conducted by the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Urban Development be completed at the earliest. This will allow the government to determine which communities should be included or excluded from the list of Scheduled Castes.
- The Committee pointed out that the Registrar General of India does not conduct field based anthropological studies to collect updated information on communities to be included or excluded from the list of Scheduled Castes. It recommended that the Registrar General obtain the latest data on the socio-economic status of castes proposed to be included or excluded in the list of Scheduled Castes.
- The Committee pointed out that while several new communities have been added to the list of Scheduled Castes, the percentage of reservation has remained the same. It therefore recommended that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment take this matter up with the Department of Personnel and Training, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

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