



Standing Committee Report Summary

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders Amendment Bill, 2012

- The Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment submitted its 28th Report on 'The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders Amendment Bill, 2012' on August 24, 2012. The Chairperson was Dara Singh Chauhan.
- The Bill seeks to include certain castes with respect to Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Tripura in the Scheduled Castes Order 1950. It also seeks to omit caste 'Majhi (Nepali)' from the Schedule to the Constitution (Sikkim) Scheduled Castes Order 1978.
- The Committee approved the Bill but expressed concern on some issues. It noted that data on the estimated population of the communities was not available with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The Ministry drafted this Bill based on the report of the state governments, which stated that these communities are socially and educationally backward. The Committee recommended that the government try to make available caste-wise data as per the Socio-Economic and Caste Census that was conducted in 2011.
- Since the inclusion of castes would entail some recurring and non-recurring expenditure, the Committee suggested that the Ministry use the data from the caste census to prepare a Financial Memorandum for the Bill.
- The Committee pointed out that a number of proposals from state governments for amending the Scheduled Caste Orders are pending with the Ministry, Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes. It proposed that these organisations be made to follow a strict time schedule to process the proposals received from state governments so that benefits may reach the intended population in the shortest possible time.
- The Committee was concerned to note that the office of the Registrar General of India does not conduct field based anthropological studies for getting updated information on the socio-economic and ethnic profile of the castes proposed to be included in the list. It advised that such studies be conducted for processing new proposals for inclusion/exclusion of castes.
- The Committee stated its concern that entrusting the responsibility of verification of individual information to registrars may have consequences for national security.

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