MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED BY THE DELEGATION OF PUNJAB
CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT ON 25-5-1997 AT LIONS CLUB, JALANDHAR

To
Hon'ble Dr. James Massey
Member, Minorities Commission of India, New Delhi.

The Punjab Christian Movement submit the following memorandum in respect of Christians of Punjab & appeal to your good self to give a kind consideration to move an appropriate action on the following demands:

1. RESERVATION

Since Independence, the Christians are never put forward by the ruling parties to represent the Christian Community. Even after 50 years of Independence, they are still socially, economically and educationally deprived and politically voiceless and powerless. Even they are not able to elect even once a member of their own to the Punjab Legislative Assembly.

The Christians are target of discrimination in all the fields, they are discriminated in social dealings; development schemes; commercial and industrial allotments; housing allotments; sharing of basic needs; health distribution and political power. And, they are discriminated in admission to educational technical training institutions. These discriminated are on the basis of religion. Not allowing them benefits conductive for growth as granted to other religions, would be crime against the Nation. Thus, the Christians are victim of double injustice. The society treats them as low caste and Government denies them protections and concessions. There fore, their social, economic, educational and political condition is worsening day by day and becoming more and more grievous. This needs a serious redressal. That keeping these factors in view, we the Christians of Punjab very humbly urge upon your highness to provide constitutional safeguards to us and to promulgate an ordinance to extend at least 5% reservation facilities in every field at State-level following the example of Karnataka vide orders No. P&D-345-BC dated 11-10-1960; Kerala State Orders No. GO(P)3 dated 11-1-1970; Tamil Nadu State orders No. 94023/HW-111-E/70-71 dated 15-10-
1976; Andhra Pradesh State Govt. orders no. GOS-341, dated 30-8-1977. the facility should follow the pattern of neo-Buddhists, as Indian Constitution guarantees equality to all citizens.

2. WELFARE BOARD:

That for immediate relief, a board for Welfare of Punjab Christian be introduced at the State level with immediate effect. The Strategies and the schemes of this Board worked out with participation of the Punjabi Christian along with the State.

3. REPRESENTATION IN CABINET/COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Since the Christians are 5% of the population in Punjab, by giving due representation, one Christian may kindly be inducted in the Cabinet because Christian Community has never represented in the Punjab Cabinet.

4. REPRESENTATION IN GOVERNMENT BOARDS/COMMITTEES AND CORPORATIONS

By giving due representation to the Christians, at least two Chairmen and one member each in every Board/Committee/Corporation may kindly be nominated!

(i) Subordinate Services Selection Board
(ii) Various Corporations
(iii) Improvements Trusts
(iv) Judges/Advocate Generals/Deputy Advocate Generals
(v) Grievances Committees
(vi) Other existing Boards/Committees

5. Technical Institutions should be opened in Christian populated districts like Gurdaspur and Amritsar. The Christians should be declared a very backward class community and they should be given fixed quotas in these Institutions.

6. REPRESENTATION IN PPSC (Punjab Public Service Commission)

Due representation to the members of Christian may kindly be given in various commissions like Punjab Public Service Commission.
7. **SHARE IN SPECIAL COMPONENT SCHEMES**

The Union Government issue instructions from time to time to the state governments that on the basis of population of the downtrodden caste, the amount of plan should be exclusively allocated for the welfare scheme. From the comparative studies, it is understood that the Punjab Government has never allocated any amount for the Christians while allocating this amount, the poorest communities should be given priority in the matter of upliftment and new schemes suitable to this community.

8. **ASSEMBLY SEATS RESERVATION**

At least 5 Assembly and one Parliament constituencies of Punjab be reserved for the Christians.

9. **ALLOTMENT OF FREE RESIDENTIAL PLOTS**

Quota be fixed for all allotment of free residential plots for Christians.

10. **COMMUNITY CENTRE**

All the communities have their own community centers except Christians. Therefore, the provision of allocation! allotment of funds for the construction of community center for Christians in villages and cities be arranged.

11. **MEGA SERIAL “BIBLE KI KHANIAN”**

(Doordarshan prejudice to Christians)

The necessary arrangements be made to telecast the Mega Serial 'Bible Ki Kahanian' on National Television Network.

12. **LOAN FACILITIES**

The Christians are out of the periphery of the prosperity and progress of Punjab. The Green Revolution was for those who owned a land and could grow more grains and, thus, could have more. The white revolution was for those who are educated professionals, technical experts entrepreneurs, capitalists and businessmen who could install and manage larger industrial units and, thus, could have more. The Christians though put in their hard sweat and blood into all most all the fields of growth and development of the nation, yet they did not receive their share, because they are deprived and victims. Therefore, the loan facilities for Christians with out any land
guarantee may be arranged and the amount be allocated for this purpose so that the Christians may be become able to move in the Society.

13. CHRISTIAN INSTITUTIONS

Taxes on Christian Institutions i.e. Schools, Colleges and Hospitals in Punjab be stopped because these all are Charitable.

14. SHAGUN SCHEME

We are thankful to the Punjab for launching this Scheme on the marriages of SC/ST girls. The Honourable Chief Minister of Punjab has extended this facility at serial No. 64 in its report. The Recommendations of the Mandai Commission be implemented/regularised in Punjab State too.

Hoping that your Honoured self will intervenes to do favour the Christian Community

Hamid Masih
Sd/-
President,
Punjab Christian Movement, Punjab