

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3934  
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2000  
SPECIAL COURTS FOR SCS/STS CASES  
RATTAN LAL KATARIA

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

- (a) whether the Government have set up special courts for the disposal of cases relating to the crimes against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether a large number of cases are still pending in courts;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SMT. MANEKA GANDHI)

(a)&(b) All States/UTs (except Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland) have specified existing Sessions Courts for each district as Special Courts under Section 14 of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. Special Courts (numbers shown against them) have also been set up in the six States namely Andhra Pradesh (5), Gujarat (3), Karnataka (4), Madhya Pradesh (25), Rajasthan (17) and Tamil Nadu (4) for trying cases under the SCs & STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

(c)&(d) The number of cases under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 pending in Courts at the end of year 1997 and 1998 are as under-

Year	No. of cases pending
1997	1,26,666
1998	1,12,253 (provisional)

(e) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of implementation of Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, Central assistance is released to the State Governments (50:50) and Union Territory Administration (100%) to support measures undertaken by them for effective implementation of the Acts which includes the provision of adequate facilities including legal aid, the appointment of officers for initiating or supervising prosecution setting up of Committees and Special Courts, conducting periodic surveys, identification of atrocity-prone areas and providing relief and rehabilitation to the victims/dependents of atrocities etc. Ministry of Home Affairs in their letter dated 12.11.1998 addressed to Chief Secretaries of States/UTs has requested them to accord higher priority in the framing, implementation and monitoring of the policies/schemes under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and to consider an appropriate mechanism for this purpose. For speedy disposal of cases, the Ministry has requested to Chief Ministers of States vide D.O. letter dated 5.1.99 to set up more special courts, where pendency of cases is large.