

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5781
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2000
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SC/ST
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

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

- (a) whether the Union Government propose to accord full autonomy to the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;
- (b) whether any representation have been received from social organisations and Hon'ble M.Ps in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the decision taken/being taken by the Union Government to grant full autonomy to the Commission?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SMT. MANEKA GANDHI)

(a to d) According to Article 338(4) of the Constitution of India, the National Commission for SCs and STs shall have the power to regulate its own procedure. The Commission, however, made a recommendation in its Fourth Report for the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 (Volume I) to amend article 338 to empower the Commission to issue directions for corrective action and implementation of its findings. The Commission also received a copy of the representation from All India Confederation of SC/ST Organizations (Regd.) dated 9.6.1999, addressed to the Prime Minister, requesting to give adequate financial, administrative and judicial powers to the Commission. The Fourth Report of the National Commission for SCs and STs along with Action Taken Memorandum have been laid on the Table of both Houses of the Parliament. In the Action Taken Memorandum, it has been explained that the Commission, being an advisory body, is not meant to function as a parallel executive organization or to issue directions to the Government. The Government is nevertheless committed to earnestly considering the recommendations of the Commission made in terms of Article 338 of the Constitution.