

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1674
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2009
PROTECTION OF DALITS/TRIBALS
Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz

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

- (a) whether the special laws enacted to protect dalits and tribals have failed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for their failure; and
- (c) the details of the improvement in the living standard of dalits and tribals during the last three years?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT(D. NAPOLEON)

(a) &(b) No, Sir. The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, was brought into force on 31.01.1990, with a view to preventing "atrocities against members of SCs and STs, to provide for Special Courts for the trial of such offences, and for relief and rehabilitation of the victims" of atrocities. Following details depict implementation of the Act:-

(i) Cases registered under the Act:

Year Number of cases registered

2005 31387

2006 32407

2007 35352

(ii) Cases disposed of by Courts and those ending in conviction

Year Number of cases disposed of Number of cases ended in conviction & percentage to cases disposed of

2005 24518 7110 (29%)

2006 24180 6782 (28%)

Source:- National Crime Records Bureau.

(iii) Relief to victims of offences of atrocities About 24500 persons were provided relief during 2007-08, for which an expenditure of around Rs. 48 crore was incurred by States/UTs, of which 50% was borne by Central Government

(iv) Implementation of the said Act is the responsibility of State Governments. They are addressed from time to time at the highest level, to implement the Act, in letter and spirit. Its implementation is also reviewed in high level meetings with them. A high powered Committee, under the Chairpersonship of the Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment, held eight meetings between 2006 to 2009, where implementation of the Act was reviewed in 25 States and 4 Union Territories.

(v) With a view to ensure effective implementation of the Act, central assistance is also provided to States/Union Territories, for inter-alia, strengthening their enforcement machinery, incentive for inter-caste marriages and awareness generation.

(c) Implementation of various Schemes/Programmes for educational and economic development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, has led to reduction in their percentage of population below the poverty line, from 1993-94 to 2004-05, indicated as under:-

Percentage of population below poverty line

Year	SCs	STs		
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban

1993-94	48.11	49.48	51.94	41.14
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2004-05	36.80	39.90	47.30	33.30
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