

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4210  
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2010  
ERADICATION OF CASTE SYSTEM  
Ponnam Shri Prabhakar

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

- (a) whether the Government is taking steps to eradicate caste system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON)

(a) to (c) Article 17 of the Constitution of India has abolished untouchability and its practice in any form is forbidden. Enforcement of any disability arising out of untouchability is an offence punishable in accordance with provision of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955.

Article 15 of the Constitution prohibits discrimination inter-alia on the grounds of caste. Further, Article 38 enjoins upon the State to endeavour to eliminate inequalities in status, facilities and opportunities amongst individuals and groups of people residing in different areas or engaged in different vocations. Hence various schemes are being implemented for the socio-economic and educational development of backward classes.