

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:292

ANSWERED ON:02.08.2011

CRIME AGAINST DALITS AND SCS/STS

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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether atrocities/crime against dalits and SCs/STs are on the rise in the country;
- (b) if so, the total number of such cases reported/registered, solved/ unsolved during each of the last three years and the current year, crime-wise and State-wise;
- (c) the details of financial assistance provided to the victims separately, during the said period, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Union Government has issued any advisory in 2011 to the State Governments and various Ministries/Departments to check crime against dalits and SCs/STs;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the State Governments thereon;
- (f) whether the Government has any proposal to make amendments in the criminal laws and the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 to provide speedy trial and justice in such cases; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof alongwith other measures taken by the Government to stop such cases in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) & (b): As per the information provided by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) total of 29825, 33367 and 33426 cases under different heads of atrocities committed against SCs were reported in the country during 2007-2009 thereby showing an increasing trend. A total of 5532, 5582 and 5425 cases under different heads of atrocities committed against STs were reported in the country during 2007-2009 thereby showing an mixed trend. State/UT -wise details of cases registered, cases chargesheeted, cases convicted, persons arrested, persons chargesheeted and persons convicted under different heads of atrocities committed against SCs during 2007-2009 are enclosed at Annexure-I. Similar details in respect of STs are enclosed at Annexure - II.

(c): As per the information provided by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment relief to SC/ST victims of offences of atrocities, the Schedule to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995, prescribes `minimum amount of relief`. The relief amount varies in between 20,000/- to 2,00,000/-, depending on the nature of the offence. The provisions of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 are implemented by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, under its Centrally Sponsored Scheme of implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, provides central assistance to the concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, mainly for strengthening of the enforcement and judicial machinery, awareness generation, incentives to inter-caste marriages and relief and rehabilitation of the affected persons. The Central assistance released to State Governments/UT Administrations, during 2008-09 to 2010-11 and current year is given in Annexure-III.

Information in regard to relief provided by State Government which have received central assistance under the said Scheme, during 2008-09 to 2010-11 is given in the Annexure-IV

(d) & (e): As per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India "Police" and "Public Order" are State subjects and, as such the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crime, including crime against SCs and STs, lies with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, Government of India is committed to prevent and combat crimes against vulnerable sections of the society, including Dalits, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SCs and STs). Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is taking steps to amend the criminal laws and the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

A comprehensive Advisory was issued to all the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations on 01.04.2010 by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The advisory has enumerated various steps, viz; vigorous and conscientious enforcement of the statutory provisions and the existing legislations; sensitizing the law enforcement machinery towards crimes against SCs/STs by way of well-

structured training programmes, conferences and seminars etc.; improving general awareness about legislations on crimes against SCs/STs, develop a community monitoring system to check cases of violence, abuse and exploitation; no delay in the registration of FIR in cases of crimes against SCs/STs; identification of for the economic and social atrocity-prone areas for taking preventive measures; adequate measures rehabilitation of the victims of atrocities etc.

(f): As per the information provided by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, no amendment has been made.

(g): Question does not arise.