

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3915
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2011
CASTE DISCRIMINATION
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether the caste and religious discrimination and atrocities in the country are on the rise and even the judges are being discriminated on the caste basis;
- (b) if so, the number of cases received by National Commission of SC for caste discrimination;
- (c) the recommendations made by the Commission and implemented by the Government for prosecution of such persons found guilty; and
- (d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to take action against such persons?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per information provided by the National Crime Records Bureau(NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, State/Union Territory wise, number of cases registered under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes(Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, during calendar years 2008, 2009, 2010, is as under:-

Calendar Year Cases registered under the PoA Act

2008	38,943
2009	38,849
2010	38,449

The NCRB does not maintain any data on religious discrimination.

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), received 11591 number of representations from members of Scheduled Castes. The Commission received two cases of discrimination against SC/ST Judges.

(c) The NCSC had, inter-alia, recommended as under:-

(i) State Governments should be requested to ensure sensitization of police officials about provisions of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

(ii) Central and State Governments need to study in depth, the underlying reasons for ending up of investigations in final report, resulting in acquittal of accused.

(iii) Government of India and State Governments need to evolve some mechanism to ensure speedy trial of such cases.

(iv) State Governments/Union Territory Administrations need to display material related to the two Acts, in local language, to enhance information level of public at large and especially members of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.

(d) The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, provide punishment for the practice of untouchability and offences of atrocities against members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, respectively. These Acts are implemented by the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. This Ministry has been addressing them from time to time to implement provisions of the two Acts in letter and spirit. Ministry of Home Affairs has also been advising them and inter-alia requested them to undertake a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of the machinery in tackling the issues of SCs/STs.