

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6090
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2012
SPECIAL COURTS FOR CONVICTION OF SC ST CASES
Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Lingam Shri P.

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

- (a) whether section 14 of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 requires States to set up separate session-level courts to try offences under the Act;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has made any review as to what extent this provision has been implemented in various States; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) (b) and (c) In accordance with Section 14 of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (PoA Act), the State Government, for the purpose of providing for speedy trial, with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of the High Court, by notification in the official Gazette, specifies for each district, a Court of Session to be Special Court to try the offences under the PoA Act.

State Governments and Union Territory Administrations of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Manipur, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, NCT of Delhi and Puducherry have designated District Session Courts as Special Courts.

For ensuring speedy trial of cases under the PoA Act, 170 exclusive Special Courts, have also been set up by States namely Andhra Pradesh (23), Bihar (11), Chhattisgarh (6), Gujarat

(19), Karnataka (7), Madhya Pradesh (43), Rajasthan (17), Tamil Nadu (4) and Uttar Pradesh (40).

The PoA Act is implemented by concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, and this Ministry has been addressing the States/UTs, to implement the provisions of the Act in letter and spirit. A Committee under the Chairpersonship of Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment has also been constituted and reviews implementation status of the Act in various States/Union Territories. The Committee has so far held seventeen meetings wherein implementation of the two Acts in 24 States and 4 Union Territories has been reviewed.