

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3652  
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2012  
ATROCITIES AGAINST DALITS  
Kishor Shri Kamal ;Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken initiatives since independence to formulate any effective scheme for stopping the oppression of dalits;
- (b) if so, the details and the impact thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to bring any new schemes for further improving the condition of the dalits; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Article 17 of the Constitution has abolished untouchability and its practice in any form is forbidden. In order to enforce this Constitutional provision, the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955 was enacted by the Parliament. Subsequently, to enlarge its scope, the Act was amended in November 1976, and renamed as the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955. The Act prescribes punishment for the enforcement of any disability arising from the preaching and practice of untouchability, and extends to the whole of India.

Further to check and deter atrocities against members of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, was enacted, with the main objective 'to prevent the commission of offences of atrocities against members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, to provide for Special Courts for the trial of such offences and for the relief and rehabilitation of the victims of such offences and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.' The provisions of the Act extend to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Comprehensive Rules under the Act, were also notified in 1995, which among other things provide for relief and rehabilitation to the affected persons. These Rules were amended in December, 2012, wherein the relief amount to atrocity victims has been increased generally by 150%.

Primary responsibility in regard to implementation of the two Acts, rests with the concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. However, a Committee under the Chairpersonship of Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment, with members from Central Ministries of Social Justice & Empowerment, Home Affairs, Tribal Affairs, National Commission for Scheduled Castes, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, constituted in 2006, also reviews implementation status of the two Acts in various States. In its nineteen meetings held so far, the Committee has reviewed implementation of the two Acts in 24 States and 4 Union Territories.

Advisories to States/UTs have also been issued from time to time by the Central Government for effective implementation of the PoA Act. Under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, they are also provided Central assistance, mainly for setting up and functioning of exclusive special courts, special police stations, strengthening of enforcement machinery, inter caste marriages, awareness generation, and relief and rehabilitation of the affected persons.

(c) & (d):- Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is already implementing several schemes for the educational and economic development of Scheduled Castes. A new Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Pre-matric scholarship scheme for Scheduled Caste students studying in classes IX and X, has been initiated with effect from 01.07.2012.