

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:340
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2012
PREVENTION OF ATROCITIES
Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any suggestions from the public representatives/ social organisations regarding the need for strict compliance of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to make provisions in these Acts for fixation of responsibility of the officers of the districts concerned and delineate the role of public representatives in such cases;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT(KUMARI SELJA)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement in answer to parts (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 340 for 17.12.2012, by Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat, regarding 'Prevention of Atrocities'

(a) & (b):- Effective implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights{PCR} Act, 1955, and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities){PoA}Act, 1989, has been a major concern of the Government.

Based on the experience of implementation of the Acts and suggestions received from various sources, Central Government has been addressing the concerned State Governments /Union Territory Administrations, responsible for implementation of the Acts, to implement their provisions, in letter and spirit. With a view to ensure their effective implementation, the following steps have been taken by the Ministry: -

(i) Central assistance is provided to States/Union Territories, inter-alia for: -

- (a) strengthening the enforcement and judicial machinery,
- (b) relief and rehabilitation of the affected persons, and
- (c) awareness generation etc.

(ii) A Committee constituted, in 2006, under the Chairpersonship of the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, has so far held twenty meetings wherein implementation of the Act in 24 States and 4 Union Territories has been reviewed. Important points emerging from the review are followed up with the State Governments.

(iii) On the request of this Ministry, the Ministry of Home Affairs organized a one-day meeting of the Ministers of Home and Social Justice/Welfare, Principal Secretaries of Home, SC/ST Development Departments, and DGPs of States, on 17.04.2012, on 'Effective Implementation of The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989'.

(iv) Offences under the PoA Act are reviewed, inter-alia, in the Conference of Ministers/ Secretaries in charge of Social Justice /Welfare, organized by the Ministry every year.

(c) to (e):- Section 17 of the PoA Act, already prescribes the role of District level officers for taking preventive action. Further, Rule 12 of the PoA Rules, 1995, made by the Central Government in exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 23 of the PoA Act, also specifies the measures to be taken by the District Administration. Section 4 of the PoA Act, prescribes punishment for willful neglect of duty by a non-SC/ST public servant, under the Act. Section 21(1)

(v) of the PoA Act, stipulates setting up of committees by the State Government at appropriate level for effective implementation of the

Act. Accordingly, Rule 16 and 17 of the PoA Rules, 1995, specify constitution of the State and District level committees, inter-alia, with participation of public representatives.