

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3908  
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2012  
BAN OF DALITS IN TEMPLES/RELIGIOUS PLACES  
Sainuji Shri Kowase Marotrao

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

- (a) whether the entry of dalits are still banned in the religious sites, temples situated in other States of the country including the State of Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received any complaints in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has taken note of such incidents alongwith the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT(PORIKA BALRAM NAIK)

(a) & (b): Article 17 of the Constitution of India has abolished the practice of untouchability. Its practice in any form is forbidden, and is an offence punishable in accordance with law. An Act of Parliament, namely, the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, prescribes punishment for the enforcement of any disability arising from preaching and practice of untouchability. Preventing any person 'from entering any place of worship, which is open to other persons professing the same religion or any section thereof, as such person', on the ground of 'untouchability', is an offence under Section 3 of the aforesaid Act.

(c) to (e): The said Act is implemented by the concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The Central Government has been addressing them to implement provisions of the Act in letter and spirit. As and when any such incident comes to the notice of the Central Government, a factual report is sought from the concerned state Government/Union Territory Administration.

A Committee under the Chairpersonship of Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment which was constituted in the year 2006, also inter-alia reviews implementation of the said Act in States/UTs. The Committee has so far held twenty meetings wherein implementation of the Act in 24 States and 4 Union Territories has been reviewed.