

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5725
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2013
SETTING UP OF SPECIAL COURTS
Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up special courts exclusively for trying cases of atrocities against SC/ST Communities in the country with a view to bringing down the number of cases of atrocities and improving the conviction rate;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to strengthen the investigation and prosecution agencies in the matter with Central assistance to achieve the objectives; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI P. BALRAM NAIK)

(a) & (b) The Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the Scheduled Tribes (STs) (Prevention of Atrocities) {PoA} Act, 1989, extends to the whole of India except Jammu and Kashmir, and responsibility for its implementation rests with State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

Section 14 of the PoA Act, stipulates specification for each district, a Court of Session to be a Special Court, for speedy trial of the offences under the Act. As per the information available, District Session Courts have been specified as Special Courts in the States/UTs of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Delhi, Lakshdweep and Puducherry.

For accelerating the trial of cases under the PoA Act, exclusive Special Courts have also been set up in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

(c) & (d) This Ministry under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme provides Central assistance to the States/Union Territories, inter-alia, towards setting up of exclusive special courts to fast track prosecution of cases under the PoA Act and SC and ST Protection Cells.