

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:149

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2009

ERADICATION OF UNTOUCHABILITY

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

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

(a) whether the Government has made any survey/study on the prevalence of untouchability and impact of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955;

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof along with the number of cases of untouchability reported during the last three years and the current year and the arrest made thereunder; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for complete eradication of untouchability from the country.

**Answer**

MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT(SHRI MUKUL WASNIK)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement in answer to parts (a) to (c) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 149 for 30.11.2009, by Shri Anandrao Adsul and Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivaji, regarding 'Eradication of Untouchability'.

(a) & (b) The Ministry had sanctioned for a study on, 'Evaluation of the Protection of Civil Rights Acts, 1955, and its impact on the eradication of untouchability', by the National Law School of India University, Bangalore, in 2004. The study covered five States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and West Bengal, and was conducted on sample basis.

The study has, inter-alia, recommended certain amendments in the Act, procedural reforms, prompt payment of compensation to witness, and setting up of a Civil Rights Enforcement Committee.

The number of cases registered by Police and persons arrested, for offences under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, during 2006 to 2008, are given in the Annexure.

(c) Implementation of the said Act is the responsibility of State Governments. They are addressed from time to time at the highest level, to implement the Act, in letter and spirit. Its implementation is also reviewed in high level meetings with them. A high powered Committee, under the Chairpersonship of the Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment, held eight meetings between 2006 to 2009, where implementation of the Act was reviewed in 25 States and 4 Union Territories.

With a view to ensure effective implementation of the Act, central assistance is also provided to States/Union Territories, for inter-alia, strengthening their enforcement machinery, incentive for inter-caste marriages and awareness generation.

National Awards for outstanding fieldwork in the area of eradicating untouchability and in combating offences of atrocities have also been instituted in 2006.

Besides above measures, number of Schemes for educational and economic empowerment of Scheduled Castes like scholarships, hostels, concessional loans etc, are also being implemented.

**ANNEXURE**

Statement mentioned in reply to Parts (a & b) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 149 for 30.11.2009, by Shri Anandrao Adsul and Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivaji, regarding 'Eradication of Untouchability'.

Number of cases registered by Police and persons arrested, under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, during 2006 to 2008.

Year Number of cases registered Number of persons arrested

2006 454 768

2007 211 388

2008 254 434

Source: - National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs.

-> Data for the year 2008 is provisional.

-> Data for 2009 is compiled calendar year-wise, and is, therefore, not available for 2009.