

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4718
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2014
ATROCITIES AGAINST SCHEDULED CASTES
Kataria Shri Rattan Lal

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

- (a) the monitoring mechanism put in place to ensure strict implementation and compliance of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to appoint nodal officers/agencies for the said purpose;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to provide immediate relief to the victims of atrocities under the said Act; and
- (e) whether the Government has evolved any mechanism in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the States to get the reports of atrocities committed against this vulnerable section of the society in different parts of the country and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a): Responsibility for implementation of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) {PoA} Act, 1989 and the Rules thereunder namely, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) {PoA} Rules, 1995, lies primarily with the concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

Rule 16 and 17 of the PoA Rules stipulate constitution of State and District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees to, inter-alia, periodically review implementation of the provisions of the PoA Act and relief and rehabilitation facilities provided to the victims. Accordingly these Committees have been constituted in the States/UTs of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, NCT of Delhi and Puducherry.

At the Central Government level, a Committee under the Chairpersonship of Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment constituted in March 2006, with members from Ministries of Social Justice & Empowerment, Home Affairs, Tribal Affairs, Law & Justice, Department of Justice, National Commission for Scheduled Castes, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and three non-official Members (two amongst SCs and One amongst STs), also reviews implementation status of the PoA Act in States and Union territories. The Committee has so far held twenty one meetings wherein implementation of the two Acts in 24 States and 4 Union Territories has been reviewed.

(b) and (c): Rule 9 of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) {PoA} Rules, 1995 provides for nomination of a senior officer for regular coordination of the functioning of the District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police and other officers responsible for implementing the provisions of the PoA Act. Accordingly Nodal Officer has been nominated by the State Governments/Union Territory Administration of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, West Bengal, Chandigarh, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Delhi and Pondicherry.

(d): Rule 12 of the PoA Rules, inter-alia, specifies provision of immediate relief to victims of atrocities by the District Administration. Nodal Officer nominated under Rule 9 of the PoA Rules is also required to, inter-alia, review measures adopted for providing immediate relief to victims of atrocities and their dependants.

(e): As per the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, the subject matter of criminal offences against members of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, including those under the PoA Act is allocated to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). As such the data on calendar year basis in regard to cases registered under the PoA Act in conjunction with the Indian Penal Code is received from the National Crime Records Bureau, MHA. Besides it, on specific cases when brought to the notice, factual report is obtained from the concerned State Government/Union territory Administration.