

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3732
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2014
UNTOUCHABILITY
Kashyap Shri Virender

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

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that there are places of worships in the country where persons belonging to SCs are not allowed to enter;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Himachal Pradesh; and
- (c) the details of action taken by the Government to prevent such incidents in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)

(a) to (c): Article 17 of the Constitution of India has abolished 'Untouchability', its practice in any form is forbidden and enforcement of any disability arising out of 'Untouchability' is an offence punishable in accordance with law. In pursuance of this Constitutional provision, the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955 was enacted and notified on 08.05.1955. Subsequently, it was amended and renamed in the year 1976 as the Protection of Civil Rights {PCR} Act, 1955. The PCR Act prescribes punishment for the enforcement of any disability arising from the practice of untaouchability.

Section 3 of the PCR Act, inter-alia, specifies punishment for preventing any person on the ground of untouchability from entering any place of public worship which is open to others professing the same religion.

As per the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, the subject matter of offences under the PCR Act is allocated to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). As per the data of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, 87 number of cases were registered under the PCR Act during the calendar year 2013. Since the data of NCRB in respect of the cases registered under the PCR Act, does not state the number of cases registered under different sections of the Act, the State wise details in regard to places of worships wherein member of Scheduled Castes were prevented to enter temples is not available.