

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4896
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2014
ELIMINATION OF CASTE SYSTEM
Patil Shri Sanjay(Kaka) Ramchandra

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering any proposal/scheme to eliminate caste system from the society;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken in this regard; and
- (c) the details of the funds released by the Government for promoting inter-caste/ inter-religious marriages in the country, State/UT-wise?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) : The caste based prejudices have historically led to practice of social evil of untouchability. Article 17 of the Constitution of India has abolished 'Untouchability', its practice in any form forbidden and enforcement of any disability arising out of Untouchability is an offence punishable in accordance with law. An Act of Parliament viz, the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, prescribes punishment for the enforcement of any disability arising from the practice of untouchability.

Under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes(Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, based on specific proposals of State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for a financial year, due Central assistance is released to them, inter-alia, towards incentive for inter- caste marriage where one of the spouse is a member of a Scheduled Caste, as it is construed that such marriages promote social integration and harmony. The State/UT wise details of Central assistance released in this regard under the aforesaid scheme during 2013-14, are given in the statement annexed.