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Title: Regarding atrocities against SC/STs in the country.

SHRI R. DHYUVANARAYANA (CHAMRAJANAGAR): Thank you, Sir that you have given me an opportunity to speak on this issue.

I would like to draw the attention regarding the atrocity against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This is a very important issue. As per the Report of National Human Rights Commission, at every 18 minutes a crime is committed against a *dalit*.

It is very much painful to note that on an average everyday two *dalits* are murdered; two *dalits'* houses are burnt; three *dalit* women are raped; and 11 *dalits* are beaten. But the conviction rates in atrocity cases are very less. There are reports indicating that the accused are punished in only three to eight per cent of the cases.

For example, in my State Karnataka, only 3.3 per cent accused are punished. The conviction rate in Gujarat is only 6.4 per cent and the conviction rate in Maharashtra is only 6.6 per cent. A large number of cases to the extent of 80 to 90 per cent are pending for enquiry in the courts. It is learnt that in Gujarat, about 90 per cent of the cases are pending for enquiry whereas in West Bengal, the pending cases are 88 per cent and in Maharashtra, the pending cases are 82 per cent.

So, in this connection, I request the hon. Union Home Minister to take strict measures to punish the accused in atrocity cases. The necessary reminders may please be issued to the State Governments in this regard.