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Title: Need to take steps to check atrocities against Scheduled Tribes in the country.

SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA (ARAKU): Madam, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise a most sensitive and alarming issue about the atrocities committed on the Scheduled Tribes.

I hail from Araku constituency of Andhra Pradesh which is the only tribal constituency in my State. I appreciate the efforts of the Government in enacting the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 2014. This Act has been enacted but the implementation is very poor in my area. Not only in my area but also in the entire country, the implementation of this Act has not been in proper shape. It is alarming to know that 1.78 crore cases have been pending from the district courts up to the Supreme Court of India pertaining to atrocities.

I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that this Act provides for actions to be treated as offence but no such cases have been registered by the Government officials. Also, forceful ousting, encroachment of lands belonging to Scheduled Tribes, sexual assaults and any social assault have also been brought under the purview of this Act. This Act also specifies that a non-SC, non-ST Government employee working in the areas of tribal areas and not performing his duties is also subjected to imprisonment up to 6 years. But nothing of this sort has been implemented. Many cases have been pending in the courts.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards this issue and request him to speed up these cases.