

Atrocities on Scheduled Castes

*285. DR. G.S. RAJHANS: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increase in the incidents of atrocities on Scheduled Castes in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to stop it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): (a) to (c). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). As per reports received from State Governments and Administrations of Union Territories, the number of cases of crimes committed on Scheduled Castes by non-Scheduled Castes, during the years 1985 onwards in as under:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of cases registered:</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
1985	15,373
1986	15,403
1987	13,529
1988	15,207

State-wise and crime-wise details of cases are given in Annexures I and II below.

(c) The remedy lies in effective implementation by the State Governments of the

Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955. The Union Government has provided guidelines to the States for taking action to implement the said Act and provides financial assistance for the purpose. While the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 takes care of all offences relating to untouchability, other crimes committed on members of Scheduled Castes by non-Scheduled Castes have to be checked by strictly enforcing the provisions of law.

The steps to check atrocities on Scheduled Castes include, precautionary, preventive, punitive and rehabilitative measures. Precautionary and preventive measures include administrative measures to keep due vigil on the position with regard to land disputes, payment of minimum wages, treatment meted out to Scheduled Castes women, etc., identification of sensitive areas, posting of special striking forces and committed officers as far as possible belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes particularly at controlling levels such as District Collectors/District Magistrates and Supdts. of Police, check on use of arms by licence holders and careful periodic review of the developments and arrangements to meet the situations. Punitive measures include prompt apprehension of the criminals, investigation of cases and filling of criminals, investigation of cases and filling of charge-sheets, arranging to get the cases tried quickly and -secure deterrent punishment of the accused.

The cases of atrocities are handled generally by Senior Officers in the Police and efforts for getting bail by the accused are resisted. Special Prosecutors and Special Mobile Courts are organised to ensure speedy trial and to secure exemplary punishments. Relief and rehabilitation measures are such as to ensure total rehabilitation of the affected persons.

Annexure-I

Number of cases of crimes against Scheduled Castes committed by members of Non-Scheduled Castes in various States/Union Territories during 1985, 1986, 1987 and 1988 based on data furnished by the State Government/U.T. Administrations

Sl. No.	State/U.T.	No. of cases registered in					
		1985	1986	1987	1988		
1	2	3	4	5	6		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	166	193	253	424		
2.	Assam	Nil	15	3	13		
3.	Bihar	1452	1633	1271	1297		
4.	Goa	Nil	Nil	1	1		
5.	Gujarat	750	649	727	665		
6.	Haryana	121	82	85	87		
7.	Himachal Pradesh	49	50	52	80		
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	53	89	156	161		

Sl No	State/U.T.	No. of cases registered in					
		1985	1986	1987	1988	1988	1988
1	2	3	4	5	6	6	
9.	Karnataka	294	182	267	393		
10.	Kerala	300	476	719	506		
11.	Madhya Pradesh	5133	4421	2879	3764		
12.	Maharashtra	428	462	400	452		
13.	Orissa	159	183	212	287		
14.	Punjab	32	19	24	25		
15.	Rajasthan	1437	1481	1465	1572		
16.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	4	6		
17.	Tamil Nadu	852	758	650	709		
18.	Uttar Pradesh	4135	4697	4348	4755		
19.	West Bengal	11	9	8	9		

Sl. No.	State/U.T.	No. of cases registered in			
		1985	1986	1987	1988
1	2	3	4	5	6
20.	Delhi	1	Nil	3	Nil
21.	Pondicherry	Nil	4	2	Nil
22.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Total :		15373	15403	13529	15207

Note :- Information in respect of other States/U.Ts is Nil.

Annexure-II

Statement showing the offence-wise figures of crimes against Scheduled Castes Committed by Non-Scheduled Castes in the country during the past few years based on data furnished by State Governments/U.T. Administrations

<i>Year</i>	<i>Murder</i>	<i>Grievous Hurt</i>	<i>Rape</i>	<i>Arson</i>	<i>Other Offences</i>	<i>Total</i>
1985	502	1367	700	980	11824	15373
1986	563	1406	726	1002	11706	15403
1987	495	1503	674	812	10045	13529
1988	579	1557	779	745	11547	15207

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: Sir, it appears from the statement that the number of crimes had come down considerably in 1987 and it rose alarmingly in 1988. Is there any explanation for the same?

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: Sir, the report, which I have placed before the hon. House explicitly says that it has happened and the cause is also well known. It is not everywhere. In some of the States, it has increased. Especially in Uttar Pradesh, from 4,348, it has gone up to 4,755. In Bihar, it was not much. In 1987, the number was 1271 and in 1988, it was 1,297. In Madhya Pradesh also, it has gone up from 2,879 to 3,764. But it is not so in all the States.

The causes, as you know, are both economic and social. We are trying to remove some of the causes. We are also trying to improve the situation

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: The hon. Minister has said that if DMs and SPs belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are posted, the crimes can be reduced to a considerable extent. In this connection, I want to know how many DMs and SPs belonging to SCs and STs have been posted?

Have they really succeeded in checking these crimes?

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: I cannot give the exact number of the SPs and Collectors who have been posted. But as I have given the number of cases of crimes, in some places their number has increased. As some places, they are able to check it and they are trying to check it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in regard to the atrocities being committed on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, we were given an assurance in this august House that some major remedial measures would be taken, but to me it appears as if the disease is growing with each dose of medicine. The hon. Prime

Minister had directed that at least one officer of the level of S.P., D.M. or the S.D.O. in every district should be from the Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe. However, these strict guidelines issued to the States by the hon. Prime Minister have been ignored and non-Scheduled Caste and non-Scheduled Tribe persons have been posted as D.Ms and S.Ps. Consequently, the objective behind issuing such guidelines has been defeated with the result that atrocities on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are increasing day by day. Under the circumstances, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any directions will be issued to the State Governments to implement the directive of the hon. Prime Minister? The Congress ruled States follow them to some extent but the non-Congress Governments pay little heed to them. The directive of the hon. Prime Minister relates to the powers of the officers in the districts and I would like to know whether some instructions will be issued regarding their postings?

[*English*]

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: Sir, so many measures have been taken in this regard. As the hon. Member said, it is not that measures have not been taken. On the basis of the study undertaken by the State Administration of the sensitive districts/villages, the Intelligence/Special Branch of the State Policy Department should be charged with the special responsibility of keeping an eye on such areas and villages and communicate both at the state level and district level the likelihood of tension building up. So, instructions have been issued that they should be alert. Based on such information as well as information from other sources, the Administration and the Police force should resolutely and promptly move in to scotch the evil before it explodes into a serious crime. These are the instructions given to the districts identified as troubled districts, where serious crimes are taking place and where atrocities are seldom reported. Where serious crimes against the Scheduled Castes have taken place or potential for them exists, the State Government should review the

arms licences granted to persons in such areas and take steps for their suspension or cancellation, according to the need of the situation. These are the steps taken by the Administration. As you have said, in every district, DMs, SPs or SHOs belonging to the Scheduled Castes may be posted. Therefore, these instructions are complied with as far as possible in those areas where there are some troubles.

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM: There are guidelines issued by the Prime Minister.

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: We are trying to implement the guidelines issued by the Prime Minister and all the States are given the directions to do the same.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was during the Janata rule that atrocities began to be committed on Harijans. In the Belchi Carnage of 1977, a large number of Harijans were burnt alive. Apart from Belchi, there were other incidents of atrocities during the Janata rule. Our late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi had rushed to Belchi herself and had to ride an elephant to reach the site of the carnage. Shri Moraji Desai was the Prime Minister at that time and he did not utter even a single word about this incident. The hon. Minister has stated in her reply that one of the reasons for the increase in the incidents of atrocities is the distribution of surplus land resulting from the Land Ceiling Act among the Harijans and Adivasis. The other reason is the implementation of the Minimum Wages Act. The entire Harijans and Adivasi population of the country is grateful to the Hon. Prime Minister for these measures. In the guidelines issued recently by him, he has made it clear that the Harijans and Adivasis should get the possession of the land in respect of which ownership documents have been issued and that measures should be taken to curb atrocities on them. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any directions have been issued to the States in pursuance of the guidelines of the hon. Prime

Minister with a view to helping these sections of the people to get minimum wages and possession of land as also security. If so, the names of the states which have been issued such directions? According to my information, the non-Congress ruled states are openly violating the guidelines. Has any action been taken against such Governments? The hon. Minister may kindly reply to these two points.

[*English*]

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: You all know that the extra land resulting from the land ceiling is to be distributed among the Scheduled Castes or the landless people and for the same, clear guidelines are given to all the States whether they are Congress-ruled States or non-Congress ruled States. Reports from all the States are being monitored quarterly. Some States have done it and some States are in the process, but we cannot say that all have achieved the target. It is also true that wherever scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have got the allotment of land, there is difficulty in getting the occupation of that land; patta is not implemented. There is reservation among the people in the locality; it causes disturbances and atrocities. Now, we are very seriously thinking about all these things. We are also very seriously considering to bring a Bill about atrocities on Harijans and scheduled castes and scheduled tribes so that we can remove all these lacunae and protect the weaker section of the society.

Methodology for Calculation of Poverty Ratio

*286. **PROF. K.V. THOMAS:** Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to refer to the reply given on 24 July, 1989 to Unstarred Question No. 997 regarding Methodology for calculation of State-wise poverty ratios and state:

(a) whether the objections of State Governments like Kerala and others as to methodology and poverty ratio have been considered by Union Government; and