

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3647  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.12.2019**

**CASTE DISCRIMINATION IN PRIVATE SECTORS**

**3647. SHRI ANUMULA REVANTH REDDY:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to introduce affirmative action in the private sector and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted a caste diversity index for the mega private companies in the country, especially when caste discrimination in the private sector is so high;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has held consultations with stakeholders to introduce reservation in private sector; and
- (e) if so, the details of the outcome of the consultation and the plan of action in this regard?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)**

(a) to (e): As per information provided by the Department for Promotion of Industrial and Internal Trade(DPIIT), a coordination Committee on Affirmative Action for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in Private Sector was set up by the Prime Minister's office in 2006. So far 9 meetings of Coordination Committee have been held. In the first Coordination Committee meeting, it was stated that the best course for achieving progress on the issue of affirmative action is through voluntary action by the industry itself.

In the context of reservation in private sector, the Industry representatives are of the view that reservation is not a solution but are willing to partner with the Government and appropriate agencies in enhancing and expanding current recruitment policy for the marginalized section, especially the SC and ST at all levels, as also to encourage skill development and training.

Accordingly, the Apex Industry Associations have prepared Voluntary Code of Conduct (VCC) for their member companies centered around education, employability, entrepreneurship and employment to achieve inclusion. Measures undertaken by the member of Industry

Associations, inter-alia, includes scholarships, vocation training, entrepreneurship development programmes and coaching etc.

In the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting Industry Associations were requested to take more proactive measures under affirmative action in terms of conducting full day sessions with their member companies for this initiative, adoption of villages and encouragement of SC/ST entrepreneurs, merit scholarships to research scholars, and the career guidance programmes for Tribal Students and support and contribute in the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and explore the possibility of placement as well. Industry Associations were further requested to enroll at least 25% of Apprentices from SC/ST Communities.

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