

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -1082
ANSWERED ON - 04/12/2024

ATROCITIES AGAINST SCs

1082. SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of cases of atrocities against SCs has risen in 2022;
- (b) the measures that have been taken to ensure timely investigation and justice in these cases;
- (c) the steps that have been implemented to reduce the pendency of cases under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act;
- (d) whether Government reviewed the conviction rate in such cases, and actions taken to improve it; and
- (e) the manner in which Government addressing systemic issues to ensure the safety and dignity of SC communities?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

(a) to (e) National Crimes Record Bureau (NCRB) compiles and publishes statistical data on crimes in its publication 'Crime in India'. As per the NCRB data, the details of number of cases registered under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989{SC/ST (PoA) Act} Cases registered as crimes/atrocities against SC for the year 2020, 2021 and 2022 are 50291, 50900 and 57582 respectively.

Two central Acts have been enacted namely, The Protection of Civil Rights {PCR} Act, 1955, which prescribes punishment for enforcement of any disability arising from practice of 'untouchability' and The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989 to prevent the commission of offences of atrocities against members of Scheduled Castes(SCs) and Scheduled Tribes(STs).

Under Section 14 of the SC/ST (PoA) Act, 1989, for the purpose of providing speedy trial, the State Government shall, with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of the High Court, establish Exclusive Special Court for one or more districts. As per the information received from the States/UTs, for speedy trial of cases of atrocities registered under the SC/ST (PoA) Act, 1989, 211 Exclusive Special Courts have been established.

Further, 145 Special Police Stations for SCs and STs have been established.

For the effective implementation of these Acts, the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment is running a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, under which Central Assistance is provided to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations mainly for:

- (i) Functioning and strengthening of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Protection Cell and Special Police Stations.
- (ii) Setting up and functioning of exclusive Special Courts.
- (iii) Relief and Rehabilitation of atrocity victims.
- (iv) Incentive for Inter-Caste Marriages, where one of the spouses is a member of a Scheduled Castes.
- (v) Awareness generation.

Moreover, a National Helpline against Atrocities (NHAA), having toll free number 14566 has been established to facilitate the members of Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes with the objective of their grievance redressal and to generate awareness about the provisions and processes under the Law.

State Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee at District and Sub-Division Level have been set up to monitor the implementation of the Act.

A Committee under the Chairpersonship of the Minister for the Social Justice and Empowerment has also been set up at the Central Level to review the implementation of the Act in the States/UTs.

Further, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) provide safeguards against the exploitation of Scheduled Castes to promote and protect their social, educational, economic and cultural interests, respectively.
