

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1392
ANSWERED ON 31/07/2025

MEASURES TO PREVENT ATROCITIES AGAINST SCs AND STs

1392# SHRI RAMESWAR TELI:
SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAIAH:
DR. DINESH SHARMA:
SHRI BRIJ LAL:

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

- (a) whether Government has reviewed the current status of Exclusive Special Courts dedicated to cases under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the Scheduled Tribes (STs) (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989;
- (b) whether any steps have been taken to address the pendency of cases and improve the charge sheet filing rate in courts concerning offences against SCs and STs; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c) The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment runs a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights (PCR) Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes (SC) and the Scheduled Tribes (ST) (Prevention of Atrocities) {PoA} Act, 1989, under which Central Assistance is provided to the States/UTs for effective implementation of the PCR Act, 1955 and the SC/ST (PoA) Act, 1989. The Central Assistance is released under the scheme mainly for functioning and strengthening of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Protection Cell and Special Police Stations, setting up and functioning of Exclusive Special Courts, relief and rehabilitation of atrocity victims, inter caste marriages where one of the spouses is a member of a Scheduled Caste and Awareness generation. The details of Central Assistance provided to the States/UTs, from F.Y. 2022-23 to 2024-25 is as follows:

Sl. No.	Financial Year (FY)	Central Assistance Released to States/ UTs (Rs. in Crores)
1.	2022-23	391.45
2.	2023-24	533.48
3.	2024-25	439.20

Section 14 of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities){PoA} Act, 1989, as amended in 2015 specifies that for the purpose of providing for speedy trial, the State Government shall, with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of the High Court, establish an Exclusive Special Court for one or more districts, provided that in Districts where less number of cases under this Act is recorded, the State Government shall, with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of the High Court, specify for such Districts, the Court of sessions to be a Special Court to try the offences under the Act.

As per information received from States/UTs and available with the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, 211 Exclusive Special Courts have been established across the country to deal with offences registered under the SC/ST (PoA) Act, 1989.

At the Central Level, a Committee under the Chairpersonship of Hon'ble Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment has been constituted to review the implementation status of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 in the States/UTs. The Committee has convened 28 meetings so far.

In addition, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) plays an advisory and monitoring role. It conducts State- and District-level review meetings, as well as hearings, through which it issues directions to the concerned authorities to take necessary measures for safeguarding the rights and ensuring the protection of Scheduled Castes in matters related to atrocities under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The responsibility of maintaining law and order, protection of life and property of the citizens including Scheduled Castes (SCs) & Scheduled Tribes (STs) rest with the respective State Governments /UT Administrations. However, the Government of India is committed to ensure protection of members of SCs & STs and supports & supplements the efforts of the State Governments and UT Administrations to effectively tackle crime against SCs and STs.

Ministry of Home Affairs has been issuing advisories to States/UTs from time to time, urging focused attention on the effective administration of the criminal justice system, particularly in relation to the prevention and control of crimes against Scheduled Castes and

Scheduled Tribes, and strict implementation of the PoA Act and its Rules. Through its Advisory dated 2/7/2024, the Ministry has inter alia advised the following:

- i. The administration and police should play a more proactive role in detection and investigation of crimes against SCs/STs and ensure that there is no under reporting;
- ii. Enforcement agencies should be instructed in unambiguous terms that enforcement of the rights of the weaker and vulnerable sections should not be downplayed;
- iii. There should be no delay in the registration of FIR in cases of crimes against SCs/STs;
- iv. The provision of the PoA Act may be implemented in letter and spirit; the Police officials should be directed to apply the appropriate sections of law as per the statements of the victims under the above-mentioned Acts and no dilution should be allowed which may help the perpetrators of crimes against SCs/STs;
- v. Response mechanism should be set up to promptly deal with incidents of crime against vulnerable, oppressed and deprived sections of society; Government must take concrete steps to increase the awareness within the administration in general and amongst the police personnel in particular, regarding crimes against SCs/STs and take steps not only to tackle such crimes but also deal with them with sensitivity;

All such advisories are available at the website link www.mha.gov.in -> Divisions of MHA -> Women Safety Division -> Women Safety II Section -> Crime against SC/ST

Additionally, the Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D) conducts training, courses and webinars from time to time for police personnel sensitizing them for effective implementation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) (POA) Act, 1989.
