

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2191
ANSWERED ON – 06/08/2026

CASES UNDER PREVENTION OF ATROCITIES ACT

2191 PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases under the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 that have reached the High Courts and the Supreme Court by way of appeal, revision, transfer petition since the said Act was enacted, year-wise;
- (b) the number of such cases in which the judgment of trial court has been affirmed, modified, set aside by the appellate courts;
- (c) the average time taken for disposal of such cases by the High Courts and the Supreme Court; and
- (d) whether Government maintains data regarding movement and disposal of cases under the Act across different levels of judicial system and 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 (d): The responsibility of maintaining law and order, investigating offences, preventing crimes and protecting the lives and property of citizens, including members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, rests with the respective State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The Central Government issues advisories from time to time to States and UTs for strengthening the criminal justice system with special emphasis on preventing crimes against SCs and STs.

The data regarding cases that have reached the High Courts and the Supreme Court by way of appeal, revision, transfer petition are not centrally maintained. Further, no time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the appellate courts. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants.

However, as per *Crime in India 2024* report published by NCRB, a total of 55,685 cases relating to crimes against Scheduled Castes and 9,961 cases relating to crimes against Scheduled Tribes were registered under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act during 2024. The conviction rate under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act during 2024 was 33.9% in respect of cases relating to Scheduled Castes and 33.2% in respect of cases relating to Scheduled Tribes.
