

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †3197
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2017**

SAMAJIK SAMRASTA ABHIYAN

†3197. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:

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

- (a) whether the Government had taken a decision to celebrate the 125th Ambedkar Birth Anniversary as 'Samajik Samrasta Abhiyan' in the year 2016;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government had taken certain steps to establish social harmony in the country during 125th birth anniversary celebration of Dr. Ambedkar;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government had declared all five important places related with Dr. Ambedkar as national monuments; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)

- (a) & (b): No, Madam, However the Government has decided to observe the 14th of April every year as the 'Rashtriya Samrasta Divas' vide Notification issued on 24.06.2015.
- (c) & (d): Yes Madam, Details of the major activities taken up by the government during the 125th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, which aim to promote social harmony amongst the different sections of society, are at **Annexure**.
- (e) & (f): No such declaration of National Monuments has been made.

Annexure in respect of reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.3197 part (c) & (d) to be answered on 21.03.2017 regarding 'Samajik Samrasta Abhiyan' raised by Shri Rattan Lal Kataria.

The major activities taken up by the Government during the 125th Birth Anniversary year celebrations of Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, which aim to promote social harmony amongst the different sections of society, are as follows:

(i) The Government has decided to observe 14th April every year as "Rashtriya Samrasata Diwas", with the aim to bring about a feeling of Samrasta amongst all the citizens of the Country, which will be an appropriate tribute to Dr. Ambedkar . Notification in the matter was issued on 24th June, 2015 by the Ministry.

(ii) Study tour of 100 Research Scholars to USA and UK: Study tour were conducted for 100 research scholars, from India in four groups of 25 each October 2015 and November 2015 to the Columbia University, USA and London School of Economics, UK, where Dr. Ambedkar had pursued higher studies. The selected scholars belonged to different sections of the society.

(iii) Celebration of 'Constitution Day': The Government of India decided vide notification dated 19th November, 2015 to celebrate the 26th day of the November of every year as the "CONSTITUTION DAY" to promote constitutional values among citizens viz to secure to all its citizens Justice, Liberty, Equality and to promote Fraternity among all. .

(iv) Observance of 60th 'Mahaparinirvan Diwas' of Dr. Ambedkar: The 60th Mahaparinirvan Diwas of Dr. B.R.Ambedkar was observed on 6.12.2015 in the Parliament House Lawns. President of India led the nation in paying floral tributes to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. The Vice President, Prime Minister, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment & Chairman (DAF) also paid floral tributes to Dr. Ambedkar. Prominent leaders of other political parties, and a large number of general public also joined them on the occasion.

(v) Youth Run for the National Unity: 'Youth Run for the National Unity' was flagged off by the Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment on 12.01.2016 at Lucknow in collaboration with the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangthan (NYKS), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. Citizens belonging to different sections of the society came together to participate in the run.

(vi) An online Quiz Competition on the Indian Constitution, the Constituent Assembly and the life and work of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar: Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar University, Lucknow organized an on-line quiz competition on 16.01.2016 on the Indian Constitution, the Constituent Assembly and the life and work of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar all over India. In the competition three State-wise and three National winners were declared.

(vii) The Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment awarded the winners of the Dr. Ambedkar Foundation National Essay Competition and presented Dr. Ambedkar merit awards to Secondary and Senior Secondary Class Students on 03.02.2016 in a public function held in New Delhi.

(viii) Establishment of new Dr. Ambedkar Chairs: As a part of the yearlong celebrations and the identified activities of the 125th Birth Anniversary year of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment approved on 17.03.2016, 11 new Dr. Ambedkar Chairs in the various Universities/Institutions in India.