

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5211
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.03.2018**

UNTOUCHABILITY

5211. SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER:

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

- (a) the reasons for untouchability rates being as high as 66% in rural Rajasthan and 64% in rural Uttar Pradesh (UP), as per a survey conducted by Social Attitude Research India (SARI);
- (b) whether the Government monitors untouchability in different parts of the country, if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether there is any mechanism to measure the rise or fall in untouchability in any region and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of sensitisation programmes implemented for Government officials and similar programmes for citizens, against untouchability?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)**

(a): The said survey conducted by Social Attitude Research India (SARI) was neither commissioned by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment nor its report has been received by the Ministry. State Governments of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have also apprised that the report and data of the said survey has not been received by them. As such its findings cannot be commented upon or substantiated.

(b) to (d): Article 17 of the Constitution of India abolished 'untouchability', forbade its practice and made enforcement of any disability arising out of 'untouchability', a punishable offence in accordance with law. An Act of Parliament namely the 'Protection of Civil Rights (PCR) Act, 1955 prescribes punishment for enforcement of any disability arising from the practice of 'untouchability. Another Act of Parliament namely the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities){PoA} Act, 1989, was enacted to prevent atrocities against members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The variation in incidence of offences registered under the PCR Act and the PoA Act is reflected in the annual statistics on the two Acts, provided by the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs. The table as under mentions number of cases registered under the two Acts during 2014, 2015 and 2016:-

Year	Number of cases registered under the :	
	PCR Act	PoA Act
2014	102	47,124
2015	107	44,839
2016	31	47,338

Provisions of the PCR Act and the PoA Act and the Rules there under are implemented by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and they are provided Central assistance towards effective implementation of the two Acts, besides being addressed to do so with emphasis on training and sensitization of police officers, other concerned officers and awareness generation.

Implementation aspect of the PCR Act and the PoA Act is periodically reviewed in the meetings of the State and District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees set up as per Rule 16 and Rule 17 of the PoA Rules. A Committee under the Chairpersonship of Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment from time to time also reviews implementation status of the two Acts in States and Union Territories and its last meeting was held on 30.01.2018.
