

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1055**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 24th JULY, 2018/SHRAVANA 2, 1940 (SAKA)

ATROCITIES ON DALIT AND WEAKER SECTIONS

**1055. SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:**

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that incidents of atrocities on Dalits and other weaker sections of the society have increased in the past few months across the country;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents that came to the notice of the Government in the past six months and the action contemplated by the Government thereon, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether the Government has since ascertained the exact cause of increase in incidents of atrocities on Dalits and other weaker sections across the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to safeguard Dalits and other weaker sections of people in the country?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)**

(a) to (d): The latest available published information with the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) is of the year 2016. There is no such trend of increase in atrocities on Dalits. However, Government has taken several steps to safeguard Dalits and other weaker sections of people in the country.

The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 has been amended in 2015 to make it more effective. The amendments include new offences, re-phrased existing sections, expanded

scope of presumptions, institutional strengthening, which inter-alia includes establishment of Exclusive Special Courts and specification of Exclusive Special Public Prosecutors to exclusively try the offences under the PoA Act to enable expeditious disposal of cases, power of Special Courts and Exclusive Special Courts to take direct cognizance of offence and as far as possible, completion of trial within two months from the date of filing of the charge sheet, establishing rights of victims and witnesses, and strengthening preventive measures.

‘Police’ and ‘Public Order’ are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The responsibilities to maintain law and order, protection of life and property of the citizens rest primarily with the respective State Governments. The State Governments are competent to deal with such offences under the extant provisions of laws. However, Ministry of Home Affairs has issued advisories in this regard, which are available at www.mha.gov.in.
