

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1377**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18TH DECEMBER, 2018/ AGRAHAYANA 27, 1940
(SAKA)**

ATROCITIES AGAINST SCs

1377. DR. P. VENUGOPAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gujarat saw 50% increase in the cases of atrocities against Scheduled Castes in eight years as per a data of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also true that in comparison to 2006, cases of atrocities lodged during 2010 had risen by over 50 per cent to 1515 by the end of 2017; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): No, Madam. As per the latest available information published by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a total of 1,182, 1,008, 1,063, 1,028, 1,190, 1,094, 1,010 and 1,322 cases were registered in the State of Gujarat under Crime/Atrocities against Scheduled Castes during 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively.

(d): '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, the Government is committed to ensure protection of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (PoA Act) has been amended in 2015 to make it more effective. The amendments include new offences, 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. Further, Section 18 Of the Act, the PoA Act was amended by the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2018 (No. 27 of 2018) and enforced on 20.08.2018, and now conduct of a preliminary enquiry before registration of an FIR, or to seek approval of any authority prior to arrest of an accused, is no longer required. The Ministry of Home Affairs has issued an advisory dated 26.09.2018 requesting all States/UTs for the implementation of these provisions in letter and spirit.