

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.929  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2022**

**SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES (PREVENTION OF ATROCITIES) ACT**

**929. SHRIMATI SARMISTHA SETHI:**

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

- (a) the status of setting up of special district courts to dispose of cases as per provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act;
- (b) the reasons for delay in setting up of such special courts; and
- (c) the concrete steps taken by the Government to ensure setting up of such courts in a time-bound manner?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c): Section 14 of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 stipulates for the purpose of providing for speedy trial, the State Government shall, with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of the High Court, establish an Exclusive Special Court for one or more districts. Further in the districts where less number of cases under the Act is recorded, with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of the High Court specify for such Districts, the Court of Session to be a Special Court to try the offences under the Act.

State Governments and Union Territory Administrations of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, NCT of Delhi and Puducherry have designated some District Session Courts as Special Courts under the Act.

Since Law and Public Order are State subjects, the Central Government advises the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to implement the provisions of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 in letter and spirit, with specific emphasis on setting up of special courts and exclusive special courts for speedy trial of cases registered under the Act.

\*\*\*\*\*