

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2335**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 10TH DECEMBER, 2024/ AGRAHAYANA 19, 1946
(SAKA)**

CRIMES AGAINST SCS AND STS

2335. SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of crimes reported against Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the country during the last three years;

(b) the specific actions taken by the Government to prevent crimes and atrocities against SCs and STs;

(c) whether the Government has initiated any awareness campaigns to reduce such violence and crimes and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the assistance provided by the Government to victims of such crimes, including compensation and rehabilitation measures?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI BANDI SANJAY KUMAR)**

(a) : National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles statistical data on crimes as reported to it by the States/UTs and publishes the same in its annual publication "Crime in India". The latest published report pertains to the year 2022. The details of number of cases registered under crime against Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) during years 2020-2022 across the country are given below:-

| Scheduled Castes (2020-2022) | Scheduled Tribes (2020-2022) |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 158773 | 27138 |

(b) to (d): 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The responsibility of maintaining law and order, protection of life and property of the citizens including Scheduled Castes (SCs) & Scheduled Tribes (STs), rehabilitation and payment of compensation to victims rests with the respective State Governments/UT Administrations, who are competent to deal with such offences under the extant provisions of laws. However, the Government of India is committed to ensure protection of members of Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes throughout the country and supports & supplements the efforts of the State Governments to effectively tackle crime against SCs and STs. Major steps taken by the Government of India in this regard are as follows :-

To make the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 more effective and to provide greater justice and enhanced redressal to injustice suffered by the atrocity victims, this Act has been amended in the year 2015. The amendment includes 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 offences under the POA Act to enable expeditious disposal of cases, power of Special Courts and Exclusive Special Courts to take direct cognizance of offences. Further, Section 18 of the POA Act was amended through the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2018 and enforced with effect from 20.08.2018. 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.

Further, a National Helpline against Atrocities (NHAA), having toll free number 14566 has been established to facilitate the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with the objective of their grievance redressal and to generate awareness about the provisions and processes under the Law. A collaboration has also been made with the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), India for awareness generation of these Acts, Rules and centrally sponsored scheme in force for implementation of these Acts.

In addition, Ministry of Home Affairs has been advising the State Governments/ UT Administrations from time to time to give focused attention to effective administration of the criminal justice system with

emphasis on prevention and control of crimes against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and to implement the provisions of the POA Act and Rules in letter and spirit. These advisories are available at the website of this Ministry www.mha.gov.in.

Ministry of Home Affairs has also advised the States and UTs to identify the Atrocity-prone areas for taking preventive measures to save life and property of the members of the SC and ST communities and post adequate number of police personnel, fully equipped with policing infrastructure in the Police Stations in such vulnerable areas.

Further, Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D) conducts training, courses and webinars from time to time for police personnel sensitizing them for effective implementation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) (POA) Act, 1989.

Further, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment runs a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the effective implementation of Protection of Civil Rights (PCR) Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes (SC) and the Scheduled Tribes (ST) (Prevention of Atrocities) {POA} Act 1989, under which Central Assistance is provided to the State Governments and Union Territory

Administrations for effective implementation of these Acts, which includes :

(i) Functioning and strengthening of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Protection cell and Special Police Stations.

(ii) Setting up and functioning of exclusive Special Courts.

(iii) Relief and Rehabilitation of atrocity victims.

(iv) Incentive for Inter-Caste Marriages, where one of the spouses is a member of a Scheduled Caste.

(v) Awareness generation.
