

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1596  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2025**

**CASTE-BASED DISCRIMINATION**

**1596. ADV. CHANDRA SHEKHAR:**

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

- (a) whether in light of documented marginalization of SC/OBC communities in local Governance, the manner in which the Ministry ensure devolved powers actively address their structural inequities including land rights, resource access and caste-based discrimination;
- (b) the details of the disaggregated data (2019–2024) on fund utilization, representation in decision making bodies and outcomes for these communities; and
- (c) the corrective measures taken where adverse impacts (e.g., elite capture or exclusion) are identified and timelines for systemic safeguards to prevent such failures?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c) : In addition to the provisions in Constitution of India, various laws and rules provide legal and institutional mechanisms to address land rights, resource access and caste-based discrimination of marginalized communities. Whereas Land is a state subject, several states have state specific Land Revenue Codes and rules which provide for the protection of land rights of the marginalized communities.

Two central Acts have been enacted namely, The Protection of Civil Rights {PCR} Act, 1955, which prescribes punishment for enforcement of any disability arising from practice of 'untouchability' and The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) {PoA} Act, 1989 to prevent the commission of offences of atrocities against members of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).

Provisions of the Constitution provides for reservation of seats for the marginalized communities in the elected decision-making bodies at Panchayat, Municipal, State and Central level. The Government has also put in place a policy for reservation of seats for the marginalized communities in educational institutes and for Government jobs.

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes, National Commission for Backward Classes have been setup to safeguard and promote the welfare of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Backward Classes respectively. Parliamentary Standing Committees are constituted to monitor government policies, programs, and implementation of these safeguards. Apart from Parliamentary Committees, there are Departmental Committees (within ministries and departments) that are specifically tasked with monitoring and implementing welfare measures and safeguards for these communities.

The Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes (DAPSC) aims to promote the overall development of poor SC families by directing targeted funds towards income-generating, welfare, and developmental schemes. It's goal is to bridge socio-economic disparities between SCs and others and foster inclusive and equitable growth. The fund utilization under DAPSC from 2019-2024 is as under:

Year	DAPSC (erstwhile AWSC/SCSP) of all Ministries/Department		Utilisation	Unutilised amount	%age of Utilisation
	B.E.	R.E.			
2019-20	81,340.74	72,936.29	61,894.10	11042.19	84.86
2020-21	83,256.62	82,707.51	62,785.16	19922.35	75.91
2021-22	1,26,259.20	1,39,956.42	1,23,009.63	16946.79	87.89
2022-23	1,42,342.36	1,52,604.29	1,38,639.28	13965.01	90.85
2023-24	1,59,126.22	1,46,861.08	1,35,178.59	11682.49	92.05

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