

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3747
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.08.2026**

CONSTITUTION OF TASK FORCE UNDER THE SC/ST ACT, 1989

3747. SHRI MANOJ KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has constituted a Task Force/Committee to review, modify, or suggest amendments to the rules framed under the SC/ST Act, 1989;
- (b) if so, the details of the composition, terms of reference (ToR), and tenure/extension granted to the said Task Force, along with the reasons for undertaking the review;
- (c) the current status of the deliberations/report of the Task Force;
- (d) whether any interim or final recommendations have been submitted to the Government, and the key modifications proposed therein, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether consultations have been held with key stakeholders, including representatives of SC and ST communities, legal experts, state governments and the National Commissions (NCSC/NCST) prior to finalizing changes; and
- (f) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that any proposed modification to the rules does not dilute the protective framework, investigation procedures, or relief and rehabilitation provisions guaranteed under the Act?

ANSWER

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

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): On the basis of suggestions from various stakeholders, during review meetings, for effective implementation of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, a Task Force, with approval of Hon'ble Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment was constituted under the Chairpersonship of the Secretary, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment on 23rd December, 2025 with the following Terms of Reference:

(i) To draft the necessary amendments to further amend the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995, as amended in 2016, framed under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989; and

(ii) To consider and propose any other amendments to the Rules, as deemed necessary by the Task Force.

The composition of the Task Force is at **Annexure-I**. The tenure of the Task Force was extended up to 31st July, 2026.

(c) & (d): The Task Force submitted its final report to the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment on 31st July, 2026 and recommended amendment in the relevant Rules of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995 regarding counseling of victims/dependents/accused, forwarding of FIR and chargesheet to concerned officers in the State Governments/Union Territories Administration within 24 hours, establishment of relief and rehabilitation Cells in States/UTs and revision of relief and rehabilitation amount etc.

(e) & (f): Whenever any changes/amendments in the Rules framed under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 are proposed, consultations with State Governments/Union Territories and other stakeholders are undertaken, as appropriate, before finalisation of such amendments. Any proposed amendment to the Rules is considered in accordance with the provisions, safeguards and objectives of the Act, with due care to ensure that such amendment does not dilute the protective framework, investigation procedures, or the provisions relating to relief and rehabilitation guaranteed under the Act.

COMPOSITION OF THE TASK FORCE	
Sl. No.	Designation
1.	Secretary, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE) - Chairperson
2.	Additional Secretary, PoA-PCR Division, DoSJE – Member
3.	Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser, DoSJE – Member
4.	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs – Member
5.	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs – Member
6.	Joint Secretary, Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice – Member
7.	Joint Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice – Member
8.	Joint Secretary, National Commission for Scheduled Castes – Member
9.	Joint Secretary, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes – Member
10.	Principal Secretary, SC and ST Welfare, Home Department, Government of Bihar - Member
11.	Principal Secretary, ST & SC Welfare, Home Department, Government of Odisha – Member
12.	Principal Secretary, Social Justice, Home Department, Government of Gujarat – Member
13.	Principal Secretary, SC Development, Home Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh – Member
14.	Principal Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Home Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh – Member
15.	Principal Secretary, Adi Dravidar & Tribal Welfare, Home Department, Government of Tamil Nadu – Member
16.	Principal Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Home Department, Government of Assam – Member
17.	Deputy Secretary, PCR-PoA Division, DoSJE – Member Secretary
