

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:306

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2006

ATROCITIES AGAINST SCs/ STs

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

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

- (a) whether the Government has constituted the Monitoring Committee for effective coordination to develop a mechanism for curbing atrocities against the SCs and STs;
- (b) if so, the details and composition thereof;
- (c) whether the said Committee has suggested any mechanism to curb atrocities against the SCs and STs;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN)

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Committee under the chairpersonship of the Hon'ble Minister (Social Justice & Empowerment) has been constituted for effective coordination to devise ways and means to curb offences of untouchability and atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and effective implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. While the Hon'ble Minister for Tribal Affairs is a Special Invitee, the Secretaries in the Ministries of Social Justice & Empowerment, Tribal Affairs, Home Affairs, Department of Justice, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, Joint Secretary (National Crime Records Bureau) in the MHA, two non-official representatives from amongst the SCs and one non-official representative from amongst STs are Members and the Joint Secretary-in-charge of Scheduled Castes Development Division is the Member-Secretary.

(c), (d) and (e) The provisions of the PCR Act and POA Act are implemented by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Committee held its first meeting on 18.09.2006 in which various issues for curbing atrocities against the SCs/STs like advisories to State Governments/UT Administrations, proposed installation of a Toll Free phone connection at the Headquarters of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, institution of a National Award for such NGOs/Human Rights Activists doing outstanding work in the area of eradicating untouchability and combating offences of atrocities against SCs, holding regular meetings by the State- and District- Level Vigilance & Monitoring Committees, sensitization of police personnel, public prosecutors and judicial officers, etc.