

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2186
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2016
Casteism and Communalism
Shetty Shri Gopal Chinayya

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to eradicate casteism and communalism in the country; and
(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)

(a) to (b): Yes, Sir. The Central Government provides assistance to State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations towards incentive for inter-caste marriages, where one of the spouses is a member of a Scheduled Caste. The incentive amount is decided and provided by the concerned State Governments/Union Territories, which is presently between Rs. 10,000/- Rs. 5,00,000/-. 50% of the expenditure incurred is provided by this Ministry. Besides, such couples whose annual income is up to Rs. 5.00 lakh can also directly seek an incentive of Rs. 2.50 lakh under 'Dr. Ambedkar Scheme for Social Integration through Inter-Caste Marriages' started during 2014-15 of the Dr. Ambedkar Foundation.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (i) has issued the Communal Harmony guidelines in 2008, (ii) suitable advisories and alert messages are also sent to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations from time to time, (iii) activities of organizations having a bearing on communal harmony in the country are also kept under the watch of law enforcement agencies, and requisite legal action is taken, where deemed necessary.