

***Statement****Details of schools assisted under DDRS*

Sl .No.	State	Number of schools for children with visual impairment assisted under DDRS
1.	Andhra Pradesh	07
2.	Bihar	02
3.	Chhattisgarh	01
4.	Delhi	03
5.	Haryana	03
6.	Himachal Pradesh	01
7.	Karnataka	11
8.	Kerala	02
9.	Madhya Pradesh	02
10.	Mizoram	01
11.	Odisha	08
12.	Punjab	03
13.	Rajasthan	03
14.	Tamil Nadu	07
15.	Uttar Pradesh	05
16.	West Bengal	5
TOTAL		64

**Prevention of atrocities against the SCs and STs**

4605. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to improve the extremely low conviction rate on the application of the prevention of atrocities against the SCs and STs Act, 1989;

- (b) the response of various State Governments, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is thinking to amend the Act for its better implementation; and
- (d) if so, specify the broad potential provisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (PoA Act) is implemented by the respective State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. With a view to ensure its effective implementation, following steps are taken by the Ministry:

- (i) Central assistance is provided to States Union Territories, *inter-alia*, for:
  - (a) strengthening the enforcement and judicial machinery,
  - (b) relief and rehabilitation of the affected persons, and
  - (c) awareness generation.
- (ii) Central Government has, by notification dated 23.12.2011, amended rules under the PoA Act and effected an increase-generally of 150% in the minimum scale of relief for victims of various types of atrocities.
- (iii) A Committee constituted, in 2006, under the Chairpersonship of the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, has so far held seventeen meetings wherein implementation of the PoA Act in 24 States and 4 Union Territories has been reviewed. Important points emerging from the review are followed up with State Governments.
- (iv) Offences under the PoA Act are reviewed, *inter-alia*, in the Conference of Ministers/Secretaries in charge of Social Justice /Welfare, organized by the Ministry every year.
- (v) On the request of this Ministry, the Ministry of Home Affairs organized a one-day meeting of Ministers of Home and Social Justice/Welfare, Principal Secretaries of Home, and SC/ST Development Departments, and DGPs of States, on 17.04.2012, on curbing atrocities against SCs/STs,
- (vi) The more heinous crimes reported in the media are followed up with the State Governments for effective action.
- (vii) Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, an autonomous organization under this Ministry, also implements a Scheme to provide relief to SC victims of heinous crimes.
- (viii) Awareness generation about provisions of the Act.

(c) and (d) The Ministry has invited considered views of concerned Ministries, State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and concerned agencies regarding amendments in the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

**Menace of begging on the road**

4606. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH:

SHRI SALIM ANSARI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that on the major thorough fares of National Capital of Delhi, poor children and women are seen begging at traffic junctions;

(b) whether these children and women are reported to be orphaned or abandoned children;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the steps Government has taken or proposes to take to stop completely the menace of begging on the road of NCT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) The Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that on major thoroughfare of NCT of Delhi, poor children and women are seen begging at traffic junctions.

(b) and (c) There is no authentic information available in this regard.

(d) The Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 has been extended to the NCT of Delhi in the year 1960. The following steps are being taken by the Government of NCT of Delhi under the Act:

- (i) Anti-begging teams are operational to apprehend beggars from different places of Delhi. Those apprehended beggars are produced before designated Beggars Courts;
- (ii) Those remanded to Beggar Homes are provided with food, medical facility, recreational activities, counselling and psycho social support, clothing, bedding, etc. during the period of their detention; and
- (iii) Vocational training is imparted to the able bodied beggars and they are paid stipend for the vocational training.