

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the State-wise action taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT) : (a) and (b) Chapter II of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) (PoA) Act, 1989, specifies offences against the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. As per the data of the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, 39,512 cases were registered under the PoA Act in conjunction with the IPC during 2012.

Several factors are responsible for atrocities which, *inter-alia*, include land disputes, land alienation, indebtedness, non-payment of minimum wages and non-economic causes like caste prejudices, practice of untouchability, deep rooted social resentment etc.

(c) The PoA Act is implemented by the concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Central assistance under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is provided to them for effective implementation of the Act. They are also addressed from time to time to implement provisions of the Act in letter and spirit. Annual Report on measures taken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and the Central Government to implement provisions of the PoA Act is also laid on the table of both the Houses of Parliament.

As per available information, several measures have been taken by the concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, which, *inter-alia* include setting up of SC/ST Protection Cells, special and exclusive special courts, identification of atrocity prone areas and constitution of State and District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees. The State wise details are as under:-

**Non-scheduled caste member in national commission of scheduled castes**

1518. SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for there being no non-Scheduled Castes member in the National Commission for Scheduled Castes;

(b) whether it is a fact that in most of the individual complaints filed before the Commission, the complainant is from the Scheduled Cast and the Commission is also composed entirely of Scheduled Castes; and

(c) whether to ensure equity and fair play there should also be a non-Scheduled Caste member in the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT) : (a) As per Article 338 of the Constitution of India, Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Members of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) are appointed by the President.

(b) and (c) The NCSC has the mandate to investigate and monitor all matters relating to safeguards provided to scheduled castes and has the duty to enquire into specific complaints relating to deprivation of rights and safeguards of the scheduled castes.

**Central scheme to improve quality of life of older persons**

1519. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a central scheme to improve the quality of life of the older persons in the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of list of NGOs involved in the scheme since its inception and number of day care centres established; and

(c) the details of NGOs along with their names involved in the scheme in Bihar including the number of beneficiaries in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT) : (a) Yes sir, the Ministry is implementing the Central Sector Scheme of assistance for Integrated Programme for Older Persons with the objective of improving the quality of life of senior citizens by providing basic amenities like shelter, food medical care and recreation opportunities etc. through providing support for capacity building of Government/Non Government Organisations/Panchayati Raj Institutions/Local Bodies etc for running of Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres and Mobile Medicare unit etc.