Special courts for atrocities

†2325. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up special courts for ensuring speedy justice in the cases pertaining to atrocities against the Dalits;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the State-wise details of the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) to (c) In accordance with Section 14 of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) {PoA} Act, 1989, the State Government with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of the High Court, specify for each district, a Court of Session to be a Special Court for the purpose of speedy trial of offences under the Act. Accordingly, as per the information available, State Governments and Union Territory Administrations of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, National Capital Territory of Delhi and Puducherry have designated District Session Courts as Special Courts. Further, to accelerate the pace of trial of cases under the PoA Act, 198 exclusive Special Courts have also been set up by the States namely Andhra Pradesh (23), Bihar (11), Chhattisgarh (6), Gujarat (25), Karnataka (8), Kerala (2), Madhya Pradesh (43), Rajasthan (25), Tamil Nadu (4), Uttar Pradesh (40) and Uttarakhand (2).

National Wetland Inventory Atlas

2326. SHRI K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad has prepared the National Wetland Inventory Atlas mapping wetlands in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) At the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.