

SHRI K.K. RAGESH (Kerala): Sir, I am not going to read. Sir, my Special Mention is regarding demand for establishing special courts and taking other measures for speedy disposal of cases registered under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2015. I lay it on the Table.

Demand to establish special courts and take other measures for speedy disposal of cases under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2015

SHRI K.K. RAGESH (Kerala): Sir, nearly 60,000 atrocities were committed against Dalits as per the 2014 data by the Centre. Unreported incidents may be many more. Such atrocities are increasing now. In the light of the spurt in such atrocities, including the Rohit Vemula incident, attack on Dalits in Una and many other similar incidents, urgent measures to set up legal and redressal systems as envisaged in the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2015 need to be taken by the Centre.

The 1989 Act was amended by Parliament on December 21, 2015. But, rules regarding this were notified on 14th April, 2016. It took four months for the Centre to notify the rules of the amended Bill. The delay in issuing notification of rules by the Centre has even resulted in escape of several perpetrators and committers of atrocities against Dalits. Hence, the Centre is urged to set a time-frame to ensure that the legal and redressal systems envisaged by the Act are in place, such as:

- An exclusive special court at the district-level to try offences.
- A special court to try offences in districts with fewer cases.
- An adequate number of courts to ensure that cases are disposed of within two months and appeals of these courts shall lie with the High Court and must be disposed of within three months.
- A public prosecutor and exclusive public prosecutor shall be appointed for every special court and exclusive special court, respectively.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Now, Dr. R. Lakshmanan.

DR. R. LAKSHMANAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, my Special Mention is regarding demand to include Villupuram Municipality under AMRUT Programme. I lay it on the Table.