has been amended by the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2015 and enforced with effect from 26.01.2016.

The Amendment Act, *inter-alia,* has expanded the ambit of atrocities recognized under the Act. It calls for provides for establishment of Special Courts and Exclusive Special Courts for expeditious disposal of cases and as far as possible completion of trial of the case within two months, from the date of filing of the charge sheet.

For speedy trial of cases under the PoA Act, as per 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, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Daman & Diu, Delhi and Puducherry have designated District Session Courts as Special Courts. Further, for accelerating trial of cases under the Act, exclusive special courts have also been set up in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Denial of social pensions to pensioners in Rajasthan

2688. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than one lakh pensioners in Rajasthan have been denied their social pension because they are recorded dead in Government files of Social Justice and Empowerment Department, who are actually, alive;

(b) if so, whether Government plans to do justice with such people;

(c) whether such cases have also been reported from any other State in the country; and

(d) if so, whether Government has any fool proof method to avoid such injustice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) to (d) As per information received from Ministry of Rural Development Old Age Pension is provided under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) to the persons belonging to below poverty line(BPL) household. IGNOAPS is a component of National Social Assistance Programme, Ministry of Rural Development. Under IGNOAPS, central assistance of ₹ 200/- per month is provided to the persons of age 60-79 years and ₹ 500/- per month to the persons of 80 years or more.

No case of denial of social pensions to pensioners in Rajasthan has been received in the concerned Division of the Ministry of Rural Development.

The Ceiling/estimated number of beneficiaries under IGNOAPS for the State of Rajasthan is 7,99,636. The funds under the scheme are released on the basis of estimated/ ceiling number of beneficiaries and digitized number of beneficiaries on NSAP portal, whichever is less. The State has digitized the data of all the estimated beneficiaries under IGNOAPS.

States/UTs have been advised for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) into the bank/post office accounts of beneficiaries. It has also been advised to States/UTs for Aadhaar enrolment of NSAP beneficiaries and seeding the same into the bank/post office accounts of beneficiaries.

Rehabilitation of manual scavengers

2689. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of manual scavengers who have been rehabilitated under Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) since 2013;

(b) the number of manual scavengers who have availed capital subsidy up to 3,25,000 and concessional loan for undertaking self-employment ventures under the aforesaid scheme; and

(c) what kind of alternative occupations they have ventured into under the Self Employment Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE): (a) and (b) Details of rehabilitation benefits provided to the identified manual scavengers under Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) since 2013 upto November, 2016 are as under:

Sl. No.	Rehabilitation Benefit	Number of Beneficiaries
1.	Onetime cash assistance of ₹ 40000/- each	11488
2.	Skill development training with stipend of ₹ 3000/- per month.	13380 proposals sanctioned