

**Increase in incidents of atrocities against dalits**

†2679. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, after the decision of the Supreme Court regarding the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities Act), a sudden increase in incidents of atrocities against dalits is being witnessed;

(b) if so, whether Government would make efforts to bring this legislation in its previous form; and

(c) whether Government is also contemplating to bring an ordinance regarding this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE) (a) There is no statistical input on record of this Ministry to substantiate it.

(b) and (c) The Scheduled Casts and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018, has been passed in the Lok Sabha on 06.08.2018, for insertion section 18A in the PoA Act, which specifies that for the purpose of this Act, (a) preliminary enquiry shall not be required for registration of a First Information Report against any person, (b) the investigating officer shall not require approval for arrest, if necessary of, of any person, against whom an accusation of having committed an offence under the PoA Act has been made and no procedure other than provided under the PoA Act or the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, shall apply, (c) The provision of section 438 of the Code shall not apply to a case under the Act, notwithstanding any judgment or order or direction of any Court.

**Increasing amount of pre-matric scholarship to SC/ST students**

2680. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Pre-matric Scholarship being given to Scheduled Caste (SC) students, which is at present 150 as scholarship and 750 as *ad hoc* grants, is very meagre in the context of increase in the cost of education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal is pending with Government to increase the Pre-matric Scholarship to SC students;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.