

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;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) to (e) The scholarship amount under the Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme to Scheduled Caste (SC) students studying in classes IX and X has been revised to ₹ 225/- per month for Day Scholars and ₹ 525/- per month for Hostel lers w.e.f. 19.09.2017. Besides this, annual adhoc grant for Day Scholars is ₹ 750/- per annum and ₹ 1000/- per annum for Hostellers. There is no proposal, at present, to further revise the norms under the scheme, as the same has been already recently done.

Supreme Court judgement on SC/ST act

2681. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to apprehensions of various people on the recent judgement of the Supreme Court on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is of the view that the said judgement is a dilution of certain provisions of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTYR OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE): (a) to (c) Reactions from various forums have been received in regard to effects of the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court on the deterrence of the The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities){PoA} Act, 1989.

Since the Judgment dated 20.03.2018 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Criminal Appeal No. 416 of 2018 (Dr. Subhash Kashinath Mahajan *Vs* the State of Maharashtra and Another) has bearing on the effectiveness of the PoA Act, the Union of India had filed a Review Petition (Crl.) on 02.04.2018 in the Hon'ble Court, praying for reviewing the judgment and recalling the directions and the matter is *sub-judice* in the court.

The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018, has been passed in the Lok Sabha on 06.08.2018, to amend the provisions of the Act in order to restore its effectiveness.