

amendments broadly relate to addition of several new offences of atrocities besides rephrasing and expansion of some of earlier offences; establishment of Exclusive Special Courts and provision for Exclusive Special Public Prosecutors for conducting cases in such Courts; empowerment of Special Courts and Exclusive Special Courts to take direct cognizance of offences; and addition of a chapter on the 'Right of victims and Witnesses'.

(c) to (e) In regard to 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, arising out of Special Leave Petition (Crl.) No.5661 of 2017), which has bearing on the vires of the PoA Act, the Union of India has filed a Review Petition (Crl.) on 02.04.2018 in the Hon'ble Court, praying for reviewing the judgment and recalling the direction. Since the matter is presently *sub-Judised*, it may not be prudent to decide upon any further course of action at this stage.

National Overseas Scholarship Scheme

1081. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of beneficiaries under the National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) Scheme being implemented for Scheduled Caste students for higher studies abroad, for Ph.Ds and post-doctoral studies;

(b) whether the Scholarship provided to students are declining year by year due to lack of proper guidance and awareness about the Scheme among students;

(c) whether Government proposes to enhance the number of students from 20 to 30 and also the income ceiling of the parents;

(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) The details of beneficiaries selected for Award/ Assurance of Scholarship under national Overseas Scholarship (NOS) Scheme for Scheduled Caste students for higher studies abroad for Ph. Ds during last three years is as under:

2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
17	36	53

Post-doctoral studies are not covered under National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) Scheme.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) to (e) As per the Scheme, there are already 100 slots in each Selection Year for Masters and Ph. Ds.

The ceiling for total family income from all sources has already been enhanced from ₹ 3.00 Lakh to ₹ 6.00 Lakh per annum from the Selection Year 2013-14. At present there is no proposal to further modify either the number of slots or the income ceiling.

Avoidance of using Dalit for SCs

1082. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has asked the State and Central Government departments to avoid using the nomenclature Dalit for the people belonging to Scheduled Castes in official dealings and transactions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a directive was already issued way back in 1982 in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIVIJAY SAMPLA): (a) and (b) The High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Gwalior Bench in its order dated 15.01.2018 in W.P. No. 20420 of 2017 had *inter-alia* directed that the Central Government/State Government and its functionaries would refrain from using the nomenclature 'Dalit' for members belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs). Accordingly, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment *vide* its circular dated 15.03.2018 has requested the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and Central Ministries and Departments that for all official transactions, matters, dealings, certificates etc., the Constitutional term, 'Scheduled Caste' in English, and its appropriate translation in other national languages should alone be used for denoting the persons belonging to the SCs.