

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 1888
ANSWERED ON – 07/08/2024

SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES (PREVENTION OF ATROCITIES) ACT, 1989

1888. MS SUSHMITA DEV

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:-

- (a) the measures taken to ensure effective implementation of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989;
- (b) the data pertaining to conviction rates under the Act in the State of West Bengal in the last five years, year-wise;
- (c) the steps taken to expedite trials related to cases of atrocities against SC/ST communities in the State; and
- (d) the details of awareness campaigns or training programs for law enforcement agencies and judicial personnel to sensitise them about the provisions of the Act?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

(a) The Department of Social Justice & Empowerment is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (SC/ST(PoA) Act, 1989). Under the Scheme, the Central Assistance is provided to the States/UTs for effective implementation of these Acts mainly for:

- (i) Functioning and strengthening of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Protection Cell and Special Police Stations.
- (ii) Strengthening and Enforcement of Judicial Machinery.
- (iii) Relief and Rehabilitation of atrocity victims.
- (iv) Incentive for Inter-Caste Marriages, where one of the spouses is a member of a Scheduled Caste.
- (v) Awareness generation and Publicity.

(b) National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles and publishes statistical data on crimes in its publication "Crime in India". The latest published data pertains to the year 2022. As per information received from NCRB, the number of convictions under the SC/ST (PoA) Act, 1989 from the year 2018 to 2022 in the State of West Bengal is as under:

Year	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
Number of convictions	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST
	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: NCRB, MHA.

(c) Section 14 of the SC/ST (PoA) Act, 1989 specifies the provisions of Special Courts for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) for speedy trial in the cases of atrocity against SC and ST communities. The State Government shall, with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of the High Court establish an Exclusive Special Court for one or more Districts and in Districts where less number of cases under this Act is recorded, the State Government with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of the High Court, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify for such Districts, the Court of Session to be a Special Court to try the offences under this Act. The State of West Bengal has 22 such designated Special Courts.

(d) In West Bengal, the publicity and awareness generation camps organised in the State to generate awareness about the provisions of the SC/ST (PoA) Act, 1989 and numbers of Police Personnel sensitized from the year 2019 to 2023 is as under:

Year	No. of Awareness Programmes conducted	No. of Police Personnel's sensitized
2019	189	1800
2020	19	No information available
2021	47	376
2022	47	376
2023	27	489
