

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO.149

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 13TH FEBRUARY, 2019

Special Courts for SCs and STs

†*149. SHRIMATI TABASSUM BEGUM:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of special courts set up throughout the country for hearing cases registered under the provisions of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, as amended in the year 2016;
- (b) the number of cases disposed of within a period of sixty days along with the number of cases lying pending till date; and
- (c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent the atrocities taking place against the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the Scheduled Tribes (STs) and to provide them speedy justice?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE AND ELECTRONICS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

POSITION NO.9

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.149 TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13TH FEBRUARY, 2019 REGARDING SPECIAL COURTS FOR SCs AND STs

(a): The constitution of Special Courts for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) and their functioning/monitoring falls within the domain of the State and Union Territory Governments, who set up such courts as per their need and resources, in consultation with the High Courts in accordance with Section 14 of the 'The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) (PoA) Amendment Act, 2015', the Gazette Notification of which was published on 01.01.2016. State Governments and Union Territory Administrations either establish Exclusive Special Courts for one or more districts or designate for such districts where less number of cases under this Act are recorded, the Court of Session to be a Special Court to try offences under the Act. As per the available information, a majority of State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have designated District Session Courts as Special Courts. Further as per available information for ensuring speedy trial of cases under the PoA Act, 157 Exclusive Special Courts, have also been set up by twelve States [Andhra Pradesh(01), Bihar(05), Chhattisgarh(03), Gujarat(16), Jharkhand(04), Karnataka(08), Madhya Pradesh(43), Maharashtra(03), Odisha(03), Rajasthan(25), Tamil Nadu(06) and Uttar Pradesh(40)].

(b): As per information received from the High Courts, total number of Special Courts set up throughout the country along with total number of cases disposed of during the Calendar Year 2018 and lying pending in such Courts as on 31.12.2018 State/UT wise is provided as per Annexure.

(c) In order to prevent the commission of offences of atrocities against the members of the SCs and the STs and to deliver greater justice to members of SCs and STs, The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) {PoA} Act, 1989, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) {PoA} Amendment Act, 2015(No. 1 of 2016) and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2018 were enacted. The provisions of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) {PoA} Act, 1989 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities){PoA}Rules, 1995 are implemented by the respective State Governments and Union Territory Administrations under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and admissible Central assistance is provided to them mainly for strengthening of the enforcement and judicial machinery. During the year 2018-19, Central assistance of Rs 389.44crore has been released to the concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

ANNEXURE**INFORMATION ON TOTAL NO.OF SPECIAL COURTS SET UP, TOTAL NO. OF CASES DISPOSED OF DURING THE CALENDER YEAR 2018 AND TOTAL NO. OF CASES PENDING AS ON 31.12.2018**

Sl. No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	No. of Special Courts functional (as on 31.12.2018)	No. of cases disposed of during Calender Year 2018	No. of cases pending (as on 31.12.2018)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13	3357	8121
2.	Bihar	37	2807	43778
3.	Chhattisgarh	23	686	990
4.	Delhi	11	42	3309
5.	Goa	2	10	27
6.	Maharashtra	173	1029	6248
7.	Gujarat	63	1369	4209
8.	Haryana	21	295	763
9.	Punjab	22	178	219
10.	Chandigarh	1	3	5
11.	Himachal Pradesh	0*	49	238
12.	Jharkhand	24	716	1838
13.	Karnataka	32	1108	5044
14.	Kerala	4	223	529
15.	Madhya Pradesh	50	5183	17790
16.	Odisha	94	965	9705
17.	Rajasthan	35	31110	26348
18.	Sikkim	4	4	2
19.	Tamil Nadu	6	515	1353
20.	Tripura	9	3	1
21.	Uttar Pradesh	40	8796	66733
22.	Uttarakhand	13	71	248
23.	West Bengal	0**	81	604
24.	Telangana	10	709	3877
25.	Daman & Diu	1	0	1
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	0	8
Total		689	59309	201988

*All District and Sessions Courts in the state of Himachal Pradesh have been specified to try the offences under Section 14 of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989

**In West Bengal every 1st Court of Additional District & Sessions Judge in headquarters of each district judgship has been designated to act as Special Court to try cases under the Act except the district of Malda where the Court of District & Sessions Judge is designated for the same vide Govt. of West Bengal Notification No. 2974-J dated 15.02.1990

