

**5.9. HIMACHAL PRADESH
COMMITTEES**

**STATE AND DISTRICT LEVEL VIGILANCE AND MONITORING
COMMITTEE.**

A State Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee under the chairpersonship of the Chief Minister reviews implementation of the Act. The District Level Committees have also been functioning under the Chairpersonship of District Magistrate in each District.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

A. NODAL OFFICER

Principal Secretary, Social Justice & Empowerment Department, Government of Himachal Pradesh has been appointed as a Nodal Officer

B. SPECIAL OFFICER FOR DISTRICTS HAVING ATROCITY PRONE AREAS

Officers of the rank of Additional District Magistrate function as Special Officers and the Deputy Superintendents of Police in each district is the Investigating Officer.

PUBLICITY

Wide awareness generation of the Act is conducted in the SC/ST concentrated areas. The pamphlets of the POA Acts were printed and also were distributed among the general public. At the district level, workshop was organized in which members of Zilla Prarishad, District officials and police personnels were participated. During the year, 372 such awareness camps/shibirs were organized and an amount of Rs. 18.83 lakhs was sanctioned.

SPECIAL COURTS

11 designated special courts at Rampur, Kullu, Shimla, Mandi Nahan, Solan, Hamirpur, Dharmshala, Una, Chmba and Bilaspur are functioning in the State.

LEGAL AID

Legal aid is provided free of cost to persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The free legal aid also includes the expenses of Court fees etc.

RELIEF MEASURES

Financial assistance is provided to the victims of the offences of atrocities as per the prescribed norms. During the year 2007, an amount of Rs. 3.00 lakh was sanctioned to 37 persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.