

## **5.9 HIMACHAL PRADESH**

### **5.9.1 COMMIITTEES**

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

A State Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee under the chairpersonship of the Chief Minister, reviews implementation of the Act.

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

The District Level Committees have also been functioning under the Chairpersonship of District Magistrate in each District, which meet on quaterly basis.

### **5.9.2 STATE LEVEL SC AND ST PROTECTION CELL**

A Special Cell has been set up at Police Headquarters, to monitor the offences of atrocities under the Act. The Cell is functioning under the direct supervision of the Director General of Police. The Cell consists Additional Director General of Police (CID), DIG, Inspector and one Sub-Inspector of Police.

### **5.9.3 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.

## **C. INVESTIGATING OFFICER**

Deputy Superintendent of Police has been appointed as an investigating officer in all districts.

### **5.9.4 IDENTIFICATION OF ATROCITY PRONE AREAS**

No area has been identified as atrocity prone where the members of Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes are likely to be subjected to atrocities.

### **5.9.5 SPECIAL COURTS**

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

### **5.9.6 PUBLICITY**

Wide awareness generation of the Act is conducted in the SC/ST concentrated areas. The pamphlets of the POA Act were printed and distributed among the general public. At the district level, workshops were organized in which members of Zilla Prarishad, District officials and police personnels participated. During the year, 172 such awareness camps/shibirs were organized and an amount of Rs. 8.77 lakhs was incurred.

### **5.9.7 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. During the year 2008-09, Rs. 7.00 lakhs was incurred on 310 persons.

### **5.9.8 RELIEF MEASURES**

Financial assistance is provided to the victims of the offences of atrocities as per the prescribed norms. During the year 2008, an amount of Rs. 3.44 lakh was sanctioned to 34 persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes /Scheduled Tribes.