

5.9 HIMACHAL PRADESH

5.9.1 COMMITTEES

STATE LEVEL VIGILANCE AND MONITORING COMMITTEE.

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

DISTRICT LEVEL VIGILANCE AND MONITORING COMMITTEE.

The District Level Committees have been functioning under the Chairpersonship of District Magistrate in each District. During the year, 17 meetings were held in 11 districts.

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 PoA Act. The Cell is functioning under the direct supervision of the Director General of Police. The Cell consists Additional Director General of Police (CID), Inspector General of Police (law & Order) and Superintendent of Police (CID/Crime).

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. INVESTIGATING OFFICER

Deputy Superintendent of Police of each districts had been declared as investigating officer, to deal the cases under the PoA Act.

C. SPECIAL OFFICER FOR DISTRICTS HAVING ATROCITY PRONE AREAS

The Additional District Magistrate of concerned district has been appointed as Special Officer.

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, Chamba and Bilaspur are functioning as special courts in the State.

5.9.6 PUBLICITY

To sensitize the public about the provisions of PoA Act and PoA Rules, 175 awareness generation workshops were organized and 185 hoardings with main provisions of the PoA Act were installed at offices of H.P.Secretariat and Directorate of SJ&E/District Magistrat/Superintendent of Police/Sub-Divisional Magistrate and District Welfare Officers.

5.9.7 RELIEF MEASURES

Financial assistance was provided to the victims of atrocities as per the prescribed norms. During the year, an amount of Rs. 4.31 lakh was provided to 41 atrocity victims.

5.9.8 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, 48 atrocity victims were provided legal aid.