

5.19 TAMIL NADU

5.19.1 COMMITTEES

STATE LEVEL VIGILANCE AND MONITORING COMMITTEE.

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

DISTRICT LEVEL VIGILANCE AND MONITORING COMMITTEE

The District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been constituted under the Chairpersonship of the District Collectors, to review the implementation of provisions of the PoA, Act, relief and rehabilitation facilities provided to the atrocity victims and discuss other matters concerned with prosecution of cases. During the year, 115 meetings were held in 32 districts.

5.19.2 STATE LEVEL SC AND ST PROTECTION CELL

The Additional Director General of Police and Deputy Inspector General of Police, Social Justice & Human Rights, Chennai monitor enforcement of the PoA Act and supervise functioning of the Social Justice and Human Rights Units.

The PoA Act is enforced through 35 Social Justice and Human Rights Units located at each of 35 district headquarters. Further there are mobile squads, which work for prevention and detection of cases of atrocity. For collection of statistical information under the Act, a Statistical Unit consisting of one Statistical Inspector is attached to each Unit. The Inspector (Statistics) is assisted by the Staff of Social Justice and Human Rights Units. The Inspector General of Police, Social Justice & Human Rights Chennai monitors implementation of the PoA Act and also supervises the functioning of the Social Justice and Human Rights Units. The Director General of Police, Social Justice and Human Rights has been provided with necessary back up staff including post of one Economist and one Sociologist (for research and analysis), 2 Superintendents, 6 Assistants, 3 Typists, 6 Office Assistants, 2 Drive Head Constables, 11 Supervisory Squads, each headed by a Deputy Superintendent of Police at Chennai, Kancheepuram,

Villupuram, Vellore, Salem, Coimbatore, Trichy, Thenjavur, Madurai, Ramanathapuram and Thirunelveli.

5.19.3 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

(A) NODAL OFFICER

The Secretary, Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department has been appointed as the Nodal Officer for coordinating functioning of the District Magistrates, Superintendent of Police and other officers authorized for implementation of provisions of the PoA Act.

(B) SPECIAL OFFICER

In accordance with Rule 10 of PoA Rules, Collectors have been appointed in each district as the Special Officer for proper implementation of PoA Act.

5.19.4 IDENTIFICATION OF ATROCITY PRONE AREAS

The Social Justice and Human Rights Wing in Tamil Nadu have identified atrocity prone villages. The following norms are in force to identify the atrocity prone areas: -

- (a) A Village is considered atrocity prone, if in a mother village or its hamlet, 3 or more cases are reported within a period of 3 successive calendar years;
- (b) A village is also considered atrocity prone, if even one case of heinous offence/caste oriented tension/clash is reported;
- (c) Identified atrocity prone villages are declared 'highly sensitive in nature, even if one case involving heinous offence such as murder, rape, arson or grievous hurt is reported;
- (d) Atrocity prone villages are kept in the active list for a period of 2 years from the last reported case and then transferred to the dormant list for further period of 3 years.

During the dormant period, if any case is reported, it is brought back to the list of atrocity prone villages.

239 villages have been identified as 'atrocity prone' and 180 as dormant atrocity prone villages. In these villages, every year survey is conducted to check availability of basic amenities like:-

- a) Link Road
- b) Street lights
- c) Pathway to burial grounds / Burial grounds
- d) Drinking Water

5.19.5 SPECIAL COURTS

Four Exclusive Special Courts have been set up for speedy disposal of cases registered under PoA Act, and are functioning at the following District Headquarters:-

S. No.	Name of the head quarters	Jurisdiction over the Districts
1.	Trichy	Trichy Commissionerate, Trichy, and Pudukottai.
2.	Thanjavur	Thanjavur, Nagapattinam and Thiruvarur.
3.	Madurai	Madurai Commissionerate, Madurai, Dindigul, Theni, Ramanathapuram, Sivagangai and Virudhunagar.
4.	Thirunelveli	Thirunelveli Commissionerate, Thirunelveli, Thoothukudi and Kanniyakumari.

These four courts cover eight districts and three Commissionerates. In the remaining districts, the existing Sessions Courts have been designated as Special Courts and empowered to try the cases under PoA Act.

5.19.6 PUBLIC PROSECUTOR

There are 19 Special Public Prosecutors in Tamil Nadu for conducting trial of cases under the PoA Act in Special Courts and designated Courts.

5.19.7 PUBLICITY AND AWARENESS GENERATION

A large number of news reports about the *Mass Awareness Campaign* were published in the local vernacular newspapers as well as English newspapers and TV media. The message of the Mass Awareness Campaign had reached about 10 lakh people directly and 1 crore people indirectly so far, in 21,333 villages in 29 districts. The District level rallies were also conducted in 20 district headquarters.

Social Justice Tea Parties under the Mass Awareness Campaign were conducted to eliminate all types of social disparities and discrimination between social groups from village to the urban centers.

Workshop on sensitizing bureaucracy towards provisions of the PoA Act, was held at Perambalur district, where more than 75 Officers were sensitized, including police, revenue, and other officers, and also all Teachers and Wardens working under Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department in the District. A training on PoA Act and Rules was also organized for 193 Sub-Divisional Police Officers in the State.

5.19.8 ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REHABILITATION

Effective steps have been taken for Economic and Social Rehabilitation of victims of atrocities and for providing relief to atrocity victims.

During the year 2009, 1268 atrocity victims were provided relief.

5.19.9 TRAVELLING AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES

Travelling and maintenance allowance is provided to the victims, their dependents and witnesses in accordance with the PoA Rules.

5.19.10 LEGAL AID

All cases requesting free legal aid are brought under Free Legal aid Scheme, implemented through the Tamil Nadu Legal Service Authority.