

## **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. A meeting of the Committee was held on 16-10-2014.

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

The District Level Committees have also been functioning under the Chairpersonship of District Magistrate in each District. During the year 2014, 40 meetings were held in 12 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 of Additional Director General of Police (CID), Inspector General of Police (Law & Order) and Superintendent of Police (CID/Crime).

### **5.9.3 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICER**

#### **A. NODAL OFFICER**

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

#### **B. SPECIAL OFFICER**

No area has been identified as atrocity prone in the State. However, as required under Rule 10 of the PoA Rules, 1995, all the Additional District Magistrates of the concerned districts have been appointed as a 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**

All the Courts of District Session Judges and Additional Session Judges in every district in the State have been designated as special courts to try offence under the PoA Act.

#### **5.9.6 SPECIAL PUBLIC PROSECUTORS**

All the Public Prosecutors (District Attorneys) attached with the Court of District and Session Judges have been designated as Special Public Prosecutors to conduct cases of offence under the PoA Act, within their respective jurisdiction.

#### **5.9.7 PUBLICITY**

The State Government has taken the following steps to generate awareness among general masses and to sensitize the various Government functionaries:

- (i) 150 Awareness Camps were organized at District level, Sub Division level, Tehsil level, Block level and Gram Panchayat level for general public,
- (ii) Special training on the provisions of PoA Act was imparted to police officers/officials at Police Training Centre, Daroh, District Kangra,
- (iii) 2 awareness programmes were conducted by the Police Department to sensitize the police officers.

#### **5.9.8 LEGAL AID**

Himachal Pradesh State Legal Services Authority is providing legal aid services to SCs/STs, women and children.

#### **5.9.9 TRAVELLING AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES TO WITNESSES AND VICTIMS OF ATROCITIES**

The State Government provides travelling and maintenance expenses to the victims of atrocities and their dependents/witnesses for visiting

investigating officer or any other Executive Magistrate as per Notification dated 12.2.2014.

#### **5.9.10 RELIEF MEASURES**

Financial assistance was provided to the victims of atrocities as per the prescribed norms. During the year 2014, an amount of Rs. 14.70 lakh was provided to 57 atrocity victims.

#### **5.9.11 CONTINGENCY PLAN**

The State Government has formulated a Contingency Plan as required under Rule 15 of the PoA Rules.

#### **5.9.12 APPEALS FILED IN SUPERIOR COURTS IN CASES WHICH ENDED IN ACQUITTAL**

During the year 2014, 38 cases ended in acquittal and appeals were filed in six cases in superior courts against acquittals.