

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. During the year 2015, one meeting of the Committee was held.

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 2015, 37 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 and 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 Special Officers.

5.9.4 IDENTIFICATION OF ATORCITIY 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) 30 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) One awareness programme was conducted by the Police Department to sensitize the police officers.
- (iv) 21 Police Officers were sensitized.

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 2015, an amount of Rs. 15.64 lakh was provided to 47 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 2015, of 48 cases which ended in acquittal, appeals against acquittals were filed in sixteen cases in superior courts.