

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 also been functioning under the Chairpersonship of District Magistrate in each District. During the year 2018, 30 meetings were held in 12 districts.

SUB DIVISIONAL LEVEL VIGILANCE AND MONITORING COMMITTEE

The Sub-Divisional Level Committees have been constituted in two Districts namely Hamirpur (5 Sub-Division) and Sirmour (3 Sub-Division) under the Chairpersonship of Sub-Divisional Magistrate.

5.9.2 STATE LEVEL SC AND ST PROTECTION CELL

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Protection Cell has been set up at the State CID Headquarters, Shimla 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 INVESTIGATION OF THE CASE AND FILING OF CHARGE SHEET WITHIN SIXTY DAYS

In accordance with Rule 7 (2) of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Rules, 2016, in 77 cases, investigation and filing of

the charge sheet was done within sixty days and that in 43 cases investigation and filing of the charge sheet was done later than sixty days.

5.9.4 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICER

A. NODAL OFFICER

The Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary, Social Justice and Empowerment Department, Government of Himachal Pradesh has been appointed as the Nodal Officer.

B. SPECIAL OFFICER

There is no atrocity prone area 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.

5.9.5 IDENTIFICATION OF ATROCITY PRONE AREAS

There is no identified atrocity prone in the State where the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are likely to be subjected to atrocities.

5.9.6 SPECIAL COURTS

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

5.9.7 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.

5.9.8 PUBLICITY

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

- (i) 28 Awareness Camps were organized at District/ Sub Division/Tehsil/ Block 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) Two awareness programmes were conducted by the Police Department to sensitize the police officers.
- (iv) 133 Police Officers and 94 other Officers were sensitized.

5.9.9 LEGAL AID

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

5.9.10 TRAVELLING AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES TO WITNESSES AND VICTIMS OF ATROCITIES

The State Government re-notified the rates of travelling and maintenance expenses and transport facilities to the victims of atrocities and their dependents/witnesses for visiting investigating officer or any other Executive Magistrate as per Notification dated 12.3.2018.

5.9.11 RELIEF MEASURES

During the year 2018, relief was provided to 253 atrocity victims as per prescribed norms.

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

During the year 2018, as against 31 cases which ended in acquittal, appeals against acquittals were filed in 9 cases in superior courts.