

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

**STARRED QUESTION NO.323
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2020**

VIGILANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

***323. SHRI RAVIKUMAR D.:**

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Vigilance Committee meetings chaired by Chief Ministers as mandated under Sections 16 and 17 of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes Prevention of Atrocities (POA) Rules during the last three years, State wise;
- (b) the details of cases referred during district level vigilance committee meetings during the above period, State-wise; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government for effective implementation of POA Amendment Act, 2018?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI THAAWARCHAND GEHLOT)**

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement in answer to part (a), (b) and (c) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.*323 for 17.03.2020, by Shri Ravikumar D, regarding, "Vigilance Committee Meetings".

(a): Rule 16 of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) {PoA} Rules, 1995 provides the constitution of State Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister. Likewise Rule 17 of the PoA Rules, 1995 provides the constitution of District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee in each district within the State under the chairmanship of District Magistrate.

As per the available information, received from the States/UTs, the details of meetings of the State Level Vigilance Committee for the year 2016, 2017 and 2018 held under the Chairpersonship of Chief Minister is as under:-

States/UTs	Meetings of State Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee held during the years.		
	2016	2017	2018
Andhra Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
Assam	Nil	Nil	1
Bihar	Nil	Nil	Nil
Chhattisgarh	Nil	1	1
Goa	Nil	Nil	Nil
Gujarat	Nil	1	3
Haryana	2	2	1
Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
Jharkhand	Nil	Nil	Nil
Karnataka	1	1	Nil
Kerala	Nil	1	Nil
Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
Maharashtra	Nil	Nil	1
Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil
Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Nil
Mizoram	Nil	Nil	Nil
Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil

Odisha	Nil	Nil	Nil
Punjab	Nil	Nil	Nil
Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tamil Nadu	Nil	Nil	Nil
Telangana	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tripura	Nil	Nil	Nil
Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
Uttarakhand	Nil	Nil	Nil
West Bengal	1	1	2
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil
Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	1
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil
Daman & Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil
Delhi	Nil	Nil	Nil
Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puducherry	Nil	1	1

(b): Rule 17 of the PoA Rules, 1995 provides the constitution of District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee in each district within the State under the chairmanship of District Magistrate for reviewing the implementation status of the PoA Act, 1989. Under the PoA Rules, 1995 the data related to cases referred during District Level Vigilance Committee is not maintained centrally. However, the details of District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meetings, state-wise is given below:-

States/UTs	Meetings of District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee held during the years		
	2016	2017	2018
Andhra Pradesh	27	34	43
Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil
Bihar	98	103	153

Chhattisgarh	100	96	68
Goa	3	2	3
Gujarat	131	148	122
Haryana	46	52	45
Himachal Pradesh	25	22	30
Jharkhand	47	96	71
Karnataka	95	110	90
Kerala	54	54	54
Madhya Pradesh	171	162	163
Maharashtra	404	374	404
Manipur	Nil	Nil	1
Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Nil
Mizoram	Nil	Nil	Nil
Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil
Odisha	48	37	31
Punjab	48	17	45
Rajasthan	149	149	103
Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tamil Nadu	53	86	118
Telangana	15	33	57
Tripura	3	Nil	Nil
Uttar Pradesh	147	120	155
Uttarakhand	13	7	17
West Bengal	40	43	47
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Nil	3	2
Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	Nil
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil
Daman & Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil

Delhi	Nil	Nil	Nil
Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puducherry	Nil	Nil	Nil

(c): The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 has been further amended as the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2018, notified on 17.08.2018 and come into force on 20.08.2018 with a view to nullify conduct of a preliminary enquiry before registration of an First Information Report (FIR) or to seek approval of any authority prior to arrest of an accused, and to restore the provisions of Section 18 of the Act. By the said Amendment Act, Section 18 (A) has been inserted, which read as under:

“18 A. (i) For the purpose of this Act,-

(a) Preliminary enquiry shall not be required for registration of a First Information Report against any person; or

(b) The investigating officer shall not require approval for the arrest, if necessary, of any person,

against whom an accusation of having committed an offence under this Act has been made and no procedure other than that provided under this Act or the Code shall apply.

(2) The provisions of section 438 of the Code shall not apply to a case under this Act, notwithstanding any judgment or order or direction of any Court.”

A copy of the notification has been sent to all States/UTs for implementation as well as for notification of the Amendment Act in the State/UTs Gazette vide this Ministry’s letter dated 10.09.2018. For effective implementation of the PoA Act, Central assistance is provided to States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme. A Committee under the Chairpersonship of Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment has been constituted to review the implementation status of the PoA Act in States/Union Territories and so far the committee has held 25 meetings in which the implementation status has been reviewed. Last meeting of the committee was held on 09.01.2020.
