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atrocities on SC reported in the country during 1992. The other States which reported more than 500 cases each of atrocities on SC were Rajasthan (2204), Gujarat (1560), Bihar (926), Maharashtra (751), Andhra Pradesh (724), Karnataka (720), Kerala (703) and Tamil Nadu (677)."

Atrocities on Scheduled Tribes

"As compared to 1991, there was a significant decrease of 22.4% in the number of cases of atrocities on the STs during 1992. The maximum number of cases were reported from Madhya Pradesh (1957) followed by Rajasthan (636), Maharashtra (331) and Gujarat (304)."

4. You will also find from the Report that the position with regard to "Disposal of cases registered under the PCRA and PAA" during 1991 has not been satisfactory. Out of 4280 cases with the police 791 cases (18.48%) were closed after investigation, 2184 cases (51%) challaned in courts and the remaining 1305 cases (30.49%) were pending investigation with the police at the end of the year. The situation was no better at the trial stage as out of 8029 cases in the courts 6537 cases were pending trial by them. During 1991, 1492 cases were disposed of by the courts out of which only 125 cases (8%) ended in conviction while 92% ended in acquittal. Out of 3778 cases with police during 1990, 632 cases (16.73%) were closed after investigation and 882 cases (23.34%) were pending for investigation. The number of cases challaned in the courts was 2264 (59.93%). Out of these 2602 cases with the courts 2366 cases (90.93%) were pending trial while 236 cases were decided by the courts. Out of the 236 cases disposed of by the courts only 22 cases (9.3%) ended in conviction while 90.7% of the cases ended in acquittal.

5. In view of the position explained above, you will agree that the huge pendency of cases with the police and delay in investigation tends to weaken the merits of the case at the trial stage. In case of delay either in trial or in investigation and challaning of cases, the witnesses tends to lose interest and it goes against the victims of atrocities. I would, therefore request that due care need be taken by the police during investigation and