

BY FAX  
MOST IMMEDIATE

No. 15011/50/2004-SC/ST Cell  
Government of India  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
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New Delhi, the 24.6.2004

To

The Home Secretaries,  
All State Governments/UT Administrations,

Subject: Setting up of a Committee to look into the cases of atrocities on SCs/STs that are pending in Courts.

Sir,

As you are aware, the Government of India has been advising the State Governments and UT Administrations from time to time to give a more focussed attention towards improving the administration of the criminal justice system to ensure prevention of atrocities against SCs/STs. The guidelines issued earlier by this Ministry include, *inter-alia*, the sensitization of police personnel in implementation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (POA) Act, 1989 and Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955; instruction to the police to have a more sympathetic approach towards SCs/STs/minorities while dealing with the cases of atrocities against them; circulation among field officers a detailed note indicating the scope and responsibility of the police personnel investigating such offences; recruitment of sufficient number of persons belonging to SCs/STs/minorities as police personnel; setting up of special cell to deal with such offences; programme for creating awareness and legal recourses open to them; evaluation of the working of the Special Courts; identification of atrocity prone areas for prevention of crime and measures to be taken for economic and social rehabilitation of victims of atrocities. Besides this, State Governments were requested to ensure speedy disposal of cases pertaining to SCs/STs pending with the police as well as Courts vide this Ministry's letter No.24013/74/2002-GPA.VI dated 14.11.2002.

2. With a view to further address the problem of atrocities on SCs/STs and to bring the offenders to speedy justice, the State Governments may consider setting up of a high-level inter-departmental Committee to monitor the prosecution of cases of atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, which are pending in various courts.

3. The State Governments may inform this Ministry about the action taken in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

*Asht*  
(ANIMESH BHARTI)  
DEPUTY SECRETARY (CRIME MONITORING)

*Issue.*

30/6/04 Sec (H) (Home)