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सचिव
SECRETARY
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2nd August, 2001.

Dear Shri Gupta

The Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is presently engaged in an examination of the status of implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. The Committee has summoned in this connection the senior officers of the Ministries of Social Justice and Empowerment, Tribal Affairs and Home Affairs, who are concerned with the implementation of these two Acts for oral evidence before the Committee to apprise them of the steps being taken by the Government to prevent atrocities on SCs and STs and effective implementation of the Acts.

2. An oft-repeated complaint with regard to the implementation of the provisions of these two Acts is lax attitude shown by the State Governments in the investigation of instances of atrocities reported, registration of the cases and follow up of these cases in the courts, which enable the culprits to continue to perpetuate atrocities. Prompt disposal of cases by the Courts would also help to act as deterrence against habitual offenders and bring down the number of cases in the country. It is, therefore, necessary to bring to the notice of the Parliamentary Committee all relevant facts for their consideration so that the Committee can take an informed view in this regard. I shall, therefore, be grateful, if I could have the following information urgently in relation to Scheduled Tribes:-

- i. Number of cases registered under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 during the last three years.
- ii. Number of cases registered under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, together with the broad category of cases such as murder, hurt, rape, kidnapping or abduction, dacoity, robbery, arson, etc. in the last three years.
- iii. Number of cases year-wise in the last three years, where conviction under these two Acts have taken place.
- iv. The average time taken for securing conviction separately under these Acts.
- v. Number of special courts set up in the State to try offences under these two Acts.