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It is necessary to improve the awareness about the provisions of these acts among the police officers and the people in general. Action taken/to be taken by the Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at District and State level as prescribed under the Rules may be indicated for ensuring timely registration and prompt and proper investigations of all atrocity cases.

## **2. PROSECUTION AND TRIAL OF CASES**

Despite setting up of Special Courts, the disposal of cases is generally very poor and the pendency is rising. For criminal justice system in atrocity case to be effective, punishment is required to be imposed promptly and sufficient to deter the potential offenders. Action taken/to be taken for improving prosecution, expediting trial and regular monitoring at district/State level may be indicated.

## **3. RELIEF AND REHABILITATION**

The SCs & STs (POA) Rules prescribe standardized norms for relief and rehabilitation to the victims of the atrocities or their families. The Central Government operates a centrally sponsored scheme under which matching share is provided to the State Governments for meeting the cost of relief and rehabilitation. Position of payment of relief/rehabilitation, legal aid may be indicated.

## **4 AMENDMENT IN SECTION 3 OF THE SCs AND STs(POA) ACT, 1989**

Dr.K.Punnayya Commission of Enquiry set up by Government of Andhra Pradesh for Eradication of Untouchability and prevention of atrocities against SCs/STs has made certain recommendation for amendment in the Section 3 of the SCs & STs (POA) Act, 1989, as indicated below.

The Commission has recommended following Amendments for Section 3 of POA Act, Sec. 3(X):

Delete the words "with intent to humiliate" as not necessary, since the expression intentionally insults or intimidates contain the necessary "mens rea"