RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ATROCITIES ON SCHEDULED CASTEAS (ISSUES AND CHALLENGES)

The First National Conference on 'Atrocities on Scheduled Castes: Issues and Challenges' held under the auspices of National Commission for Scheduled Castes on 6 & 7 February 2007 after intensive deliberation resolves to recommend to the concerned authorities the following for consideration and implementation:

1.   All Committees and institutional infrastructure mandated under the POA Act and Rules should be put in place by all State Governments in a period of two months. Functioning of all such arrangements as prescribed frequency should be closely monitored.

2.   All crime against Scheduled Castes whether under IPC or special acts viz., POA/PCR or any other legislations, where even a single SC is a victim, should be classified and reported under crime against SC.

3.   In view of multiplicity of agencies involved, resulting in variation of data emanating from the States, there is need for one designated agency to collect, compile, authenticate and supply data to all users. State Governments to designate nodal agency and nodal officer in a period of 3 months.

4.   Prosecution Department or Department entrusted with prosecution work should be made nodal agency for collection, compilation, authentication and supply of statistical data relating to cases challenged in Courts, speed of trial, verdicts & appeals etc.

5.   Uniform formats/procedure to be evolved for reporting and classification of crime by Ministry of Home Affairs immediately and it should come into force from January 2008 at the latest.

6.   Collation and computerization of all data from the Police station upwards viz. registration of cases, results of investigation, filing of charge sheets in the Courts be made available online. All computerization projects should incorporate this in project design ab initio.

7.   In view of delays in disposal of cases in Special Courts and increasing pendency of trial cases across the country there is urgent need for