

हर्ष चौहान
अध्यक्ष
HARSH CHOUHAN
CHAIRPERSON



भारत सरकार
राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग
छठी मंजिल, लोकनायक भवन
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MESSAGE

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes has been set up with effect from 19th February, 2004 as a Constitutional body for the protection, welfare and socio-economic development of the Scheduled Tribes in the country. The Commission has been vested with all the powers of a Civil Court while investigating the matters related to the safeguards provided for the Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution.

Article 46 of the Constitution provides that the State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. Similarly, Articles 15 and 16 empowers the Government for making special provisions for Scheduled Tribes. In addition to the Constitutional provisions, the Parliament has passed Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 to prevent Commission of offences of atrocities against the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and to provide relief and rehabilitation for the victims of atrocities. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 recognises and vests forest rights and occupation on forest land to Scheduled Tribes. Similarly, the Government instructions have been issued for reservation in educational institutions as well as in appointments and promotion to various posts. These are some of the illustrated list of constitutional safeguards the Commission strives to protect.

The Commission receives a number of representations from individuals, civil societies, non-governmental organisations regarding injustice being meted out to persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes. The print and electronic media also highlight the issues relating to atrocities, exploitation and social injustice on Scheduled Tribe persons.

As soon as the matters get the attention of the Commission, every effort is being made for providing justice to persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes. In order to achieve this, we need cooperation and assistance from all organs of the State i.e. legislative, executive, judiciary, press and media.

In order to reach out to the people in the field, Members of the Commission visit different States, Districts, Universities and Central Public Sector Undertakings for on the spot assessment of the working of the Constitutional safeguards for Scheduled Tribes. In such occasion, people get opportunity for redressal of their grievances in their places. All possible steps are being taken for promoting the interests of the Scheduled Tribes and mainstreaming them to the national development agenda for an inclusive "New India".

I assure you that the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes will strive its best for fulfilment of its mandate as enshrined in our Constitution.

Harsh Chouhan

**(Harsh Chouhan)
Chairperson**