

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1226
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2007
GENDER CHANGE
Singh Baba Shri K.C.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been an increase in number of sex change operations being done in the country by private and Government Hospitals;
- (b) whether such operations are permitted by any law/ rules;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the response of the Government thereto particularly for enacting law to permit such operations in cases of "Gender Identity Disorder"?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (d): The Sex change is usually desired by those having gender identity disorder characterized by persistent crossed gender identification and a persistent discomfort with his/her own sex or some sense of inappropriateness in the gender role of the sex and therefore it is important for such people to be examined by a Psychiatrist first. In some cases, there may be a medical need where the change of sex can be beneficial for the well-being of the patient.

Sex reassignment surgery for such patients of gender identity disorder is an internationally accepted treatment provided the patient meets the standard treatment criteria and has undergone psychiatric evaluation. In India, there are only limited facilities for this surgery and that too mostly in private sector. The law regarding performing 'Sex reassignment surgery' appears to be silent in our country.