

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4872
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2014
WELFARE OF TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY
Karandlaje Km. Shobha

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the recommendations made by the Expert Committee constituted by the Government to make an indepth study of the problems being faced by the transgender community and the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (b) whether the Supreme Court in its recent judgement has recognized transgenders as third gender and issued directives to the Government for their welfare;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the follow up steps taken/being taken by the Government for the welfare of said community including a public awareness campaign to remove social stigma; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to constitute any Committee or Board on the lines of 'Tamil Nadu Transgender Welfare Board' for the transgender community and if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said Board is likely to be constituted ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a) The key recommendation of the Expert Committee is that the transgender should be declared as the third gender. The other recommendations include access to healthcare, educational opportunities at all levels without stigma and discrimination, formulation of an Umbrella Scheme for the transgender persons, social welfare policy/schemes to be transgender inclusive, etc.

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) & (d) Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement has, inter-alia, directed Centre and State Governments to take steps for framing various social welfare schemes for the betterment of transgender persons, take proper measures to provide medical care to them in the hospitals, provide separate public toilets and other facilities, create public awareness about them etc.

The Hon'ble Court has further directed to examine the recommendations of the Expert Committee based on the legal declaration made in its judgement and implement them.

The Expert Committee has, inter-alia, recommended a State level authority duly designated or constituted by the respective States/UTs on the lines of Tamil Nadu Transgender Welfare Board. An Inter-Ministerial Committee has been constituted to pursue implementation of the Expert Committee's recommendations.