

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3343

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2014

EUTHANASIA

Jardosh Smt. Darshana Vikram

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

- (a) whether the Hon`ble Supreme Court had laid down comprehensive guidelines to process passive euthanasia;
- (b) if so, the further action taken by the Government as suggested by Hon`ble Supreme Court regarding bringing a legislation, inter-alia, covering the active euthanasia;
- (c) whether the Government has held consultations with States and other stakeholders on the issue and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time by which the legislation is likely to be finalised in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

(a) to (d): Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its judgement dated 7.3.2011 [WP(Criminal) No. 115 of 2009], dismissing the plea for mercy killing of a Mumbai nurse, Aruna Ramchandra Shanbaug, (who has been reduced to vegetative state in King Edward Memorial Hospital for past 37 years), laid down comprehensive guidelines to process "passive euthanasia". Thereafter, the matter of mercy killing was examined further in consultation with Ministry of Law & Justice and it has been held that the Hon'ble Supreme Court has already laid down guidelines in this respect through its judgement delivered in Aruna Ramchandra Shanbaug's case which is to be followed in such cases and should therefore be treated as law. At present, there is no proposal to enact a legislation on this subject. The judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court is binding on all.