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Title: Need to take steps for the welfare of trans-gender community.

KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE (UDUPI CHIKMAGALUR): Madam, today I am raising the issue of sexual minorities, who do not have voice in Parliament or in Legislative Assemblies or in society. Really they are facing problems; they are virtually begging and doing sex work. So, I want to raise this issue in Parliament and hence, please allow me to raise the issue.

The problems of trans-genders or sexual minorities or *hijras* are ignored, neglected and sidelined since centuries. Sexual minorities are also part of the society. The discrimination based on their class and gender makes the trans-gender community one of the most dis-empowered and deprived groups of the Indian society. It is very sad that no accurate or reliable estimate is available about the trans-gender people in the country. There is census for animals like cows and also for wild animals. For every species, we have census. In the forest also, we are having census for wild animals. But about sexual minorities, there is no census and there is no figure available with the Indian Government. It is really a tragic part of Indian democracy. Sexual minorities in India face a variety of issues. Reports of harassment, violence, denial of services, unfair treatment against trans-gender persons in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodation, obtaining passport, driving licence, ration card and identity card, are available.

It is a total violation of articles 14, 15, 16 and 21 of the Constitution of India. The main problems being faced by this trans-gender community are the discrimination, unemployment, lack of educational facilities, humanlessness, lack of medical facilities, problems related to marriage and adoption. On the humanitarian concerns, lakhs of sexual minorities are in need of support, help and financial assistance from the Union Government.

I urge upon the Union Government to consider the following issues. Firstly, this sexual minority must be properly documented in the national census. They should be provided reservation in education and employment. In Bengaluru, after our agitation, they were given reservation in admission in Bengaluru University. This should be followed by all the universities in India as also all educational institutions. For providing rights equal to male and female, this community should be considered as third sex. All the fundamental rights and facilities should be provided to them. Various rights such as passport, driving licence, ration card, ID card and Aadhar Card should be provided to them. The BPL cards should be issued to this sexual minority. We should treat them as human beings.