

outlays and benefits from the general sectors in the plan of Central Ministries/Departments for the development of Scheduled Castes at least in proportion to their population both in physical and financial terms. The objective of the SCSP is to bridge the gap between Scheduled Castes and others through accelerating the development of Scheduled Castes.

No such proposal in respect of Other Backward Classes is under consideration of the Government.

(b) The Planning Commission had set up a Task Force in June, 2010, to review the operational difficulties in implementation of SCSP. The Task Force had, *inter-alia*, recommended differential earmarking of funds under SCSP by Central Ministries/Departments.

To give effect to the strategy for effective implementation of SCSP adopted in the Twelfth Five Year Plan, an Inter-Ministerial Committee was constituted by the Planning Commission during 2013, which *inter-alia*, has recommended certain modification in the implementation of SCSP guidelines. Based on these recommendations, the Planning Commission has issued revised guidelines to all the Central Ministries/Departments, and States/Union Territories identified for earmarking outlays for SCSP, to *inter-alia* estimate gaps, prioritise development needs of the SCs and orient the Schemes to bridge the gaps. The Schemes designed under SCSP should yield direct and quantifiable benefits to SC individuals, SC household and SC habitations. The funds so earmarked shall be non-divertible.

Empowerment of transgender community

3168. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken steps to enable the economic and social empowerment of the transgender community;

(b) whether they have access to medical care and other facilities like separate public toilets;

(c) whether they have been granted quotas in education and jobs as directed by the Supreme Court in its landmark judgement on April 15, 2014, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) to (d) An Expert Committee was constituted in the Ministry to make an in-depth study of the problems being faced by the Transgender Community and suggest suitable measures to ameliorate their problems. The Committee submitted its report on 27th January, 2014.

On 15th April, 2014, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in a Writ Petition (Civil) No. 400/2012 filed by National Legal Services Authority (NLSA) has delivered its judgement on the issues of Transgender Persons, directing the Central and State Governments to take various steps for the welfare of the transgender community and also to examine the recommendations of the Expert Committee based on the legal declaration made in the above said judgment and implement them.

An Inter Ministerial Committee has been constituted to pursue implementation of the Expert Committee's recommendation in the light of Supreme Court's Judgement.

Welfare of elders in Uttarakhand

3169. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of old and helpless men and women in the country has increased during the last few years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Uttarakhand; and
- (c) the number of Government and private institutions engaged for their care/welfare?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) and (b) As per census 2011, the population of Senior citizens in the country has increased from 7.7 crore (7.5%) in 2001 to 10.38 crore in 2011, which is 8.6 per cent of the total population. A statement showing size of elderly population (aged 60+) by residence in States and Union Territories as per census 2001 and 2011 is given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) There is no data available/maintained with regard to the private institutions engaged in the care/welfare of Senior Citizens. However, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing a Scheme namely, Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP) under which Grant-in-aid is given to implementing agencies *i.e.* Panchayati Raj Institutions/Local bodies, Non-Governmental Voluntary Organizations, State Government autonomous/subordinate bodies, Government Recognized Educational institutions, Youth Organizations and in exceptional cases, State Governments/UT administrations for, *inter-alia*, running of Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres, Mobile Medicare Units etc. The number of NGOs and the projects assisted are given in Statement-II.