

Transgender as Third Gender

1343. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether transgenders have been acknowledged as the third gender option in official Government forms, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Ministry is taking steps to include the third category in Government run colleges and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) 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. One of the recommendations of the Committee is to declare transgender as 'third gender' and for indicating the gender on official documents.

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 transgender community. The Court has also directed that the recommendations of the Expert Committee be examined based on the legal declaration made in the above judgement and implemented. The Court has further directed that that Hijras, Eunuchs, apart from binary gender, be treated as "third gender" for the purpose of safeguarding their rights under Part III of our Constitution and the laws made by the Parliament and the State Legislature.

(b) The University Grant Commission (UGC) has written a letter to all the universities requesting them to include a column for transgender category in all application forms/academic testimonials and all other relevant documents processed by them and as well as by their affiliated colleges.

UGC has also informed that it has issued directions to all its bureaus to ensure that the forms/proformas of all the schemes being operated by it have a column for the transgender in gender category.

Mandal Commission Report on reservation for fishermen community

1344. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Mandal Commission recommended for the survey of 9000 kms of coastal belt of the country and reserve those Parliamentary and

Assembly Constituencies for fishermen community basing on the fishermen's population; and

(b) if so, whether any such survey has been conducted and if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) and (b) Mandal Commission, under Miscellaneous Point No. 13.37 of its Report have recommended to the effect that Fishermen, Banjaras, Bansforas, Khatwers etc. still suffer from the stigma of untouchability in some parts of the country. With the view to giving better representation to certain very backward sections of O.B.Cs. like Gaddis in Himachal Pradesh, Neo-Buddists in Maharashtra, Fishermen in the Coastal areas, Gujjars in Jammu and Kashmir, have further recommended that areas of their concentration may be carved out into separate constituencies at the time of delimitation. However, no specific recommendation has been made to carryout survey of 9000 kms., of Coastal Belt of the country to reserve those Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies for Fishermen community basing on the fishermen's population. Hence no such survey has been carried out by this Ministry.

Standardisation of curriculum for schools of special children

1345. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has chalked out a common standardized curriculum for all schools of special children across the country, if so, the salient features thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to arrange recognition to these schools by specialized boards to provide degrees to special children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) Establishment of schools of special children is State subject. Accordingly, the curriculum, as prepared and approved by the authorities of the State, is being followed in such schools.

(b) This being a State subject, recognition from the Govt. of India to schools of special children is not required.

Grants-in-Aid for Physically Handicapped Welfare Organisation

1346. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes of grants-in-aid available for various categories of social