

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO -198
ANSWERED ON – 11/03/2026

UNDERFUNDING OF GARIMA GREHS FOR TRANSGENDER PERSONS

198. DR. FAUZIA KHAN

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Garima Greh shelters under the SMILE initiative are facing delays and shortfalls in Government funding, leading to staff attrition, closure threats and curtailed capacity;

(b) if so, the reasons for erratic disbursal of funds and bureaucratic hurdles cited by shelter operators and measures being taken to streamline funding processes and prevent operational shutdowns;

(c) whether the Ministry has established or plan to establish a dedicated grievance redressal system and regularized timelines for staff salary payments in Garima Grehs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(DR.VIRENDRA KUMAR)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) IN RESPECT OF
RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 198 FOR REPLY ON 11.03.2026
REGARDING UNDERFUNDING OF GARIMA GREHS FOR TRANSGENDER
PERSON ASKED BY Dr. FAUZIA KHAN.**

(a) & (b) No, Madam.

Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE) is a comprehensive Scheme for rehabilitation for welfare of transgender persons, which was launched on 12.02.2022.

One of the components of the Scheme, "Housing in the form of 'Garima Greh' for Transgender Persons", is to provide support to the Community Based Organisations (CBOs)/ Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), for running Garima Grehs, including salary for the staff, rent for building and administrative expenses. In addition to this, non-recurring funds are also released for setting up Garima Grehs.

Funds are released to Garima Greh after processing of their proposals as per the Scheme guidelines and on submission of mandatory documents. Funds to these Garima Grehs are released through E-Anudaan in two instalments of 50% each.

Further, for streamlining funding processes and to resolve issues faced by Garima Grehs, review meetings by National Council for Transgender Persons (NCTP), National Conferences, Regional Review Meetings and Zonal Meetings are conducted on regular intervals. Moreover, stakeholder's consultation meet, Video Conferences and handholding training sessions are organised by the Department with the Garima Greh functionaries.

(c) & (d) No, Madam. However, grievances relating to Garima Grehs, including those raised by staff, are addressed through the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS). CPGRAMS provides an integrated digital platform for registration, monitoring and time-bound disposal of grievances, with defined timelines, an escalation mechanism and system-generated alerts for effective redressal.

In addition, grievances may also be received through other channels, representations from concerned staff through letters or emails, and communications from social workers or other stakeholders.

Further, the Department conducts periodic inspections of Garima Grehs. During such inspections, the inspecting officers also interact with the staff members to ascertain any issues faced by them, including those related to service conditions.
