

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4453
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.03.2023**

SMILE SCHEME

**4453. DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED:
ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE:
SHRI BALUBHAU ALIAS SURESH NARAYAN DHANORKAR:**

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

- (a) whether transgender persons are excluded/ absence from schemes pertaining to education, healthcare, employment, housing, violence and discrimination, mitigation and political representation, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the budgetary allocation under Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprises (SMILE) scheme has significantly declined, and if so, the reasons therefor and the measures taken by the Government for the same; and
- (c) the rationale behind zero allocation to Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 in the budget of 2023?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SUSHRI PRATIMA BHOUMIK)**

(a): No Sir. Government does not exclude Transgender Persons in any of its schemes.

Section 8(2) of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) 2019 states that The appropriate Government shall take such welfare measures as may be prescribed to protect the rights and interests of transgender persons, and facilitate their access to welfare schemes framed by that Government.

Further, the Act also has provision for formulating welfare schemes and programmes which are transgender sensitive, non-stigmatising and non-discriminatory.

(b): No Sir. Budget allocation for SMILE scheme has increased to Rs. 72.90 Crore in FY 2023-24 from Rs. 45.00 Crore in FY 2022-23.

(c): There is no such provision of budgetary allocation in the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) 2019.
