

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2622
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2026**

HIGH-POWERED COMMITTEE ON LGBTQIA

2622. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

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

- (a) the status, scope and terms of reference of the High-Powered Committee constituted pursuant to the Supreme Court's judgment in Supriyo Vs. Union of India to examine measures for same-sex couples and LGBTQIA+ persons to address discrimination and facilitate access to services and welfare schemes;
- (b) the number of meetings held by the Committee since its constitution in April 2024, with dates;
- (c) whether the Committee has submitted its report and if not, the expected timeline for submission;
- (d) whether the Government has noted that over two years have elapsed since the constitution of the High-Powered Committee and its report is still awaited, if so, the reasons and expected timeline thereof; and
- (e) the interim measures taken by the Government, pending the Committee's report, for same-sex couples and LGBTQIA+ persons to address discrimination and facilitate access to public services and welfare schemes, along with details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI B.L.VERMA)**

(a): The High-Powered Committee has been constituted pursuant to the Supreme Court's judgment in Supriyo Vs. Union of India to examine measures for same-sex couples and LGBTQIA+ persons to address discrimination and facilitate access to services and welfare schemes and is being chaired by Cabinet Secretary. The scope and terms of reference of the High-Powered Committee are as under:

- (i) measures to be taken by the Central Government and the State Governments to ensure that there is no discrimination in access to goods and services to the queer community;

(ii) measures to be taken such that queer community do not face any threat of violence, harassment or coercion;

(iii) measures to be taken to ensure that queer person are not subjected to involuntary medical treatments, surgeries, etc., including modules to cover mental health of queer persons;

(iv) measures to be taken to ensure that there is no discrimination in access to social welfare entitlements to queer persons;

(v) any other issues as deemed necessary.

(b): Till date, 02 meetings have been held by the Committee on 21.05.2024 and 22.08.2024.

(c) & (d): The Committee has not submitted its report. The Hon'ble Supreme Court, in its judgment in *Supriyo @ Supriya Chakraborty & Anr. vs. Union of India*, while directing the constitution of the Committee, did not prescribe any specific timeline for submission of its report.

(e): The interim measures taken by the Government, pending the Committee's report, for same-sex couples and LGBTQIA+ persons to address discrimination and facilitate access to public services and welfare schemes are at **Annexure**.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (E) IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2622 FOR REPLY ON 04.08.2026 REGARDING HIGH-POWERED COMMITTEE ON LGBTQIA.

The interim measures taken by the Government, pending the Committee's report, for same-sex couples and LGBTQIA+ persons to address discrimination and facilitate access to public services and welfare schemes are as under:

- i. Department of Food and Public Distribution (D/oF&PD) has issued an advisory to all the States and UTs, that as per existing provisions, enabling partners in a queer relationship are to be treated as a part of the same household for the purposes of ration card. Further, States/UTs have been asked to take necessary measures to ensure that partners in queer relationship are not subject to any discrimination in the issuance of ration cards.
- ii. Department of Financial Services (DFS) has issued an advisory that there are no restrictions for persons of the queer community to open a joint bank account and also to nominate a person in queer relationship as a nominee to receive the balance in the account, in the event of death of the account holder.
- iii. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued letters to all stakeholders including all States/UTs to take measures to ensure the rights of LGBTQI+ community with relation to healthcare, planning awareness activities, prohibition of conversion therapy, availability of sex reassignment surgery, changes in curricula, provision of Tele consultation, sensitization and training various levels of staff and making of provision to claim the body when near relative/next of kin/family is not available.
- iv. The Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also issued letter to the State Health Departments and other stakeholders on the subject of ensuring the health care access and reducing discrimination towards LGBTQI+ community.
- v. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has framed guidelines in respect of medical intervention required in infants/ children with disorders of sexual differentiation (intersex) to have medically normal life without complications. The Ministry is working on guidelines to address the issues pertaining to mental health/well-being of queer community.
