

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1587
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.03.2020**

PREVENTION OF DRUG ABUSE IN THE COUNTRY

1587. DR. VIKAS MAHATME:

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

(a) whether according to UN report, one million heroin addicts are registered in India, unofficially there are five million and inhalation of heroin alone caused intravenous drug use, that too in combination with other sedatives and painkillers, has increased intensity of effect, hastened the process of addiction and complicated the process of recovery, what steps have been taken in this regard;

(b) whether Government proposes to take any stringent measures to check intake of heroin and other narcotics; and

(c) whether Government has conducted awareness programmes and campaigns in schools and colleges to sensitise youth against drug abuse, if not, reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)**

(a) to (b): As per the report, Magnitude of Substance Use in India (2019), the prevalence of Current Use of Opioid group of substances (which includes: i-Opium and its variants; ii-Heroin and iii-Pharmaceutical opioids), is 2.06% in the general population of India (10-75 years old). The prevalence of use and addiction (i.e.harmful use / dependence) of different types of opioid products is follows:

	Prevalence of Use	Prevalence of Problem use (Addiction/Harmfuluse/Dependence)	Estimated number of people affected by Addiction/Harmful use/Dependence
Opiods, Overall	2.06%	0.70%	77 Lakh
Heroin	1.14%	0.57%	63 Lakh
Pharmaceutical opioids	0.96%	0.23%	25 Lakh
Opium	0.52%	0.1%	11 Lakh

As can be seen here, heroin is the most common opioid used in India followed by pharmaceutical opioids. Among opioid drugs, highest proportion of addiction is found for heroin followed by pharmaceutical opioids. Opium has the lowest prevalence of use and addiction.

So far as the steps taken to curb intake of heroine & other narcotics in the country is concerned, Deptt. of Revenue, Ministry of Finance have informed that the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 prohibit, the manufacture, production, trade, use etc. of narcotics drugs and psychotropic substances, except for medical or scientific purposes. The Act provides for stringent penalties/rigorous provisions for illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. NDPS Act follows graded punishment, wherein quantum of punishment is decided on the basis of the quality of the drugs involved in the trafficking. The enforcement agencies of Central and State Governments have been empowered to enforce the provisions of the Act, and adopt various measures, inter-alia, including

- (i) intensive preventive and interdiction efforts along known drug routes,
- (ii) strengthening of the intelligence system, and
- (iii) bilateral/multilateral cooperation with other countries for sharing of information on illicit trafficking.

(c): National Institue of Social Defence (NISD) through various stakeholders has conducted awareness programs and campaign in schools and colleges. Till date, 1403 awareness programs have been conducted across nationwide. Stakeholder wise details are as follows:

SL. NO	STAKE HOLDER	AWARENESS PROGRAM CONDUCTED
1	RRTC	298
2	SCERT	249
3	Universities/ College	72
4	School Societies	150
5	Medical Colleges/ Hospitals	24
6	NYKS/NSS	99
7	RICA/ Prison	37
8	Police Functionaries	62
9	SIRD	18
10	Social Welfare Department	28
11	NGOs/CBO's	111
12	Red Cross/ Others	255
Total		1403