

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2451**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH, 2023/ CHAITRA 1, 1945 (SAKA)**

**NUMBER OF DRUG ADDICTS IN PRISONS**

**2451 SHRI SANJEEV ARORA:**

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

**(a) the number of persons sent to prisons under judicial custody or upon conviction for their involvement in criminal cases under the NDPS Act during the last five years;**

**(b) how many persons are involved in possessing drugs with quantities less than commercial or intermediate levels as categorized under the act;**

**(c) whether Government has commissioned any study to assess the impact of such imprisonment on turning ordinary drug addicts into hardened criminals; and**

**(d) whether Government is considering decriminalizing possession of drugs up to some reasonably small levels to segregate drug addicts from traffickers?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)**

**(a) & (b): As per latest data published by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) pertaining to the year 2021, the number of Convicts and Under trials in Prisons under Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic (NDPS) Act during 2017-2021 is as under:-**

	<b>CONVICTS</b>					<b>UNDER TRIALS</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Number</b>	<b>8734</b>	<b>8198</b>	<b>8833</b>	<b>5488</b>	<b>6722</b>	<b>21127</b>	<b>22988</b>	<b>26805</b>	<b>33410</b>	<b>40862</b>

**(c): As per information available, no such study has been commissioned to assess the impact of such imprisonment on turning ordinary drug addicts into hardened criminals.**

**(d): No proposal for decriminalizing possession of drugs up to some reasonably small levels to segregate drug addicts from traffickers is under deliberation in the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, the nodal Ministry administering the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Act 1985.**

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