

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.346
ANSWERED ON 06/12/2023

DRUG ABUSE IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

346 SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the accelerated rate of drug abuse among school and college students;
- (b) whether there is any pragmatic and student-centric action plan to address this serious social issue;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government is planning to undertake a nation-wide awareness programme to curb the problem of drug abuse among students and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) to (d) : No, Sir. There is no confirmed report to conclude that drug addiction is spreading among school and college students which is spoiling the students. Nevertheless, the Government is committed to create a drug free healthy educational environment in various education campuses. University Grant Commission (UGC) has issued advisories to HEIs from time to time. On 06.09.2016, UGC issued advisory to stay away from addiction of intoxicants. Subsequently on 04.03.2020, UGC issued advisory to chart out action plan to confront the drug menace. Recently on 23.06.2023, UGC issued advisories to administer e-pledge and also take other measures during 'Nasha Mukht Bharat Pakhwada' to observe 'International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking'.

A joint Letter by Department of Higher Education and Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has been issued to State/UT Government and Higher Education Institutions with suggested activities to spread awareness and taking Anti-drug declaration by the student at the time of admission is to be taken to invoke a commitment from the students to have responsible behaviours during studies
