

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -1886
ANSWERED ON - 11/12/2024

DRUG ADDICTION AMONG THE YOUTH

1886 SHRI SANJAY RAUT

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

- (a) the current status of drug addiction among the youth in the country and how it is affecting the country's social and economic fabric;
- (b) the steps Government has taken to curb the illicit drug trade and trafficking, especially across borders and high-risk areas;
- (c) the actions taken by law enforcement agencies to tackle the growing presence of drugs in schools, colleges and public places; and
- (d) whether Government is ensuring strict enforcement of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and what improvements are being made to prevent its misuse?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI B.L.VERMA)

(a) As per the National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India conducted by the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment through NDDTC, AIIMS during 2018, the prevalence (in %) and estimated number of adults and children who are currently users of various psychoactive substances as per the Survey report is as under:

Substance	Children& Adolescents (10-17 years)		Adults (18-75 years)	
	Prevalence (in %)	Estimated no. of users	Prevalence (in %)	Estimated no. of users
Cannabis	0.90	20,00,000	3.30	2,90,00,000
Opioids	1.80	40,00,000	2.10	1,90,00,000
Sedatives	0.58	20,00,000	1.21	1,10,00,000
Inhalants	1.17	30,00,000	0.58	60,00,000
Cocaine	0.06	2,00,000	0.11	10,00,000
ATS	0.18	4,00,000	0.18	20,00,000
Hallucinogens	0.07	2,00,000	0.13	20,00,000

(b) The steps taken by the Government to curb the illicit drug trade and trafficking including across borders and high-risk areas are at **Annexure-I**.

(c) Actions taken by Law Enforcement agencies to tackle the growing presence of drugs in schools, colleges and public places are at **Annexure-II**.

(d) Strict enforcement of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act is carried out. The details are at **Annexure-III**.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.1886 for answer on 11.12.2024

As per information provided by Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the following steps have been taken by Government to prevent trafficking of drugs:

- Towards the capacity building of drug law enforcement agencies of the country, NCB is continuously imparting training to the officers of other drug law enforcement agencies.
- Assistance is being provided by Central Government to the States for Up gradation of existing forensic science laboratory in the states under different schemes.
- Police Modernization Scheme: Scheme for assistance to States / UTs for narcotics control assistance from Directorate of Forensic Science Services.
- Financial assistance is provided to eligible States for strengthening their anti-narcotics units under the scheme "Assistance to States & UTs".
- A task force on Darknet and Crypto-Currency has been set up under the MAC mechanism with a focus on monitoring all platforms facilitating Narco-trafficking, sharing of inputs on drug trafficking amongst Agencies/MAC members, interception of drug networks, continuous capturing of trends, modus operandi & nodes with regular database updates and review of related rules & laws.
- Border Guarding Forces (BSF, Assam Rifles and SSB) and other agencies like RPF and NIA have been empowered to take action under the NDPS Act 1985.
- To strengthen NCB and to increase its pan India presence, 425 posts in different level have been created in NCB. The sanctioned strength of NCB has been augmented to 1598.
- As per direction of Hon'ble Union Home Minister, a National Narcotics Helpline "Madak-Padarth Nished Asoochna Kendra" (MANAS) was created as a 24x7, toll-free National Narcotics Call Centre. Accordingly MANAS has been envisioned as an integrated system providing a single platform for citizens to log, register, track and resolve drug related issues/problems through various mode of communications like call, SMS, Chat-bot, e-mail & web-link.

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.1886 for answer on 11.12.2024

As per information provided by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), following steps have been taken to tackle the presence of drugs in schools, colleges and public places:

- Drug Awareness Display on NCB Facebook Page: To inform the public about the ill effects of drug abuse and drug trafficking.
- Celebration of 26th June every year as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking: NCB organizes International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26th June every year in all field units of NCB to spread awareness among the general public about the ill effects of drug abuse and drug trafficking.
- SMS alerts of Drug Awareness are flashed through mobile service providers on special occasions.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (d) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.1886 for answer on 11.12.2024

Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has taken several measures and steps for ensuring strict enforcement of NDPS Act, which are mentioned as under:

- Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has established a 4-tier Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) mechanism for ensuring better coordination between Central & State Drug Law Enforcement Agencies and other stake holders in the field of controlling drug trafficking and drug abuse in India. All information related to drug law enforcement, topics like NCORD, Training & Capacity Building, Narco-offenders data, legal information, exemplary initiatives taken by states etc. are covered on the NCORD portal.
- As outcome of the 5th Apex Level Committee meeting of NCORD, a dedicated Anti Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) headed by ADG/IG level Police Officer has been established in each State/UT to function as the NCORD Secretariat for the State/UT and follow-up on compliance of decisions taken in NCORD meetings at different levels.
- To monitor the investigation of significant and important drug cases including cases of narco-terrorism, a Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) with DG, NCB as its Chairman has been set up by Government of India on 19 July 2019. So far, 09 JCC meetings at the Central level and 07 JCC at the State level have been conducted.
- NCB coordinates with other agencies like, Navy, Coast Guard, Border Security Forces (BSF), State ANTF etc. to conduct joint operations to control the drug trafficking.
- Intelligence Sharing and Controlled Delivery (CD) Operations within India and with foreign countries are being carried out regularly.
- Increased international cooperation for exchange of information and investigative assistance in administering control over the movement of Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals.
- On the directions of Hon'ble Home Minister, a committee has been constituted by MHA to counter the drug trafficking through darknet. NCB is in process of hiring cyber experts to strengthen its fight against illicit trafficking of drugs specifically on the darkweb using crypto currency.

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