

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3613
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24TH MARCH 2026**

INCREASING SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND ADDICTION IN YOUTH

3613.# DR. BHIM SINGH:

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any assessment has been conducted regarding the rising substance abuse and the number of addicted youths, adolescents and children in the country, particularly in Bihar, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether the Government is implementing any special scheme at the national level and in Bihar to prevent substance abuse, expand the number of de-addiction centres, conduct public awareness, campaigns and strengthen mental health services for treatment and rehabilitation, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a): To assess and to know the magnitude of the problem of substance use in the country, a Comprehensive National Level Survey on the Magnitude of Substance Abuse in India was conducted by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment through National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC), AIIMS which was published in 2019.

As per the survey, the details of drug use in Bihar among the Children & Adolescents (10-17 years) and Adults (18-75 years) is given at Annexure-I.

(b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched a "Drug De-addiction Programme (DDAP)" with the objective to provide affordable, accessible, and evidence-based treatment for substance use disorders through Government Hospitals. Under this programme, MoH&FW provides treatment (OPD/IPD) and counselling through 6 (Six) Drug Addiction Treatment Centres established in the Central Government Hospitals and 25 Drug Treatment Clinics (OPD & counselling) established at district hospitals and Medical colleges across the country.

Further, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment implements a centrally sponsored scheme namely National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) to tackle the issue of substance use. Under this programme financial assistance is provided to State Government/ Union Territory (UT) Administrations for Preventive Education, Awareness Generation and Capacity Building programmes for Drug Demand Reduction by States/UTs. NGOs/VOs are also funded for running and maintenance of Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCAs), Community

based Peer Led Intervention (CPLI) for early Drug Use Prevention among Adolescents, Outreach and Drop In Centres (ODIC) and District De-Addiction Centres (DDACs). Funding also provided for Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) established in Government Hospitals.

The following major activities have been undertaken under NAPDDR scheme:

- i. Running 349 Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCAs) that provide in-patient treatment to drug users along with counselling, detoxification/de-addiction, after care and re-integration into the social mainstream.
- ii. Also running 45 Community based Peer Led Intervention (CPLI) programmes to create awareness against drugs and teach life skills to the children below 18 years.
- iii. Under this scheme 76 Outreach and Drop In Centres (ODICs) are also functioning to provide secure space for screening, assessment, counselling and referral for treatment and rehabilitation services.
- iv. 154 Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) in Government hospitals.
- v. 145 District De-Addiction Centres (DDACs) which provide all three facilities provided by IRCA, ODIC & CPLI under one roof.
- vi. This scheme is providing support to 7 IRCAs, 6 DDACs, and 2 ATFs in the State of Bihar.
- vii. A Toll-free Helpline Number 14446 is also established for providing primary counselling and immediate referral services to the persons seeking help.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment also launched a nationwide Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) to reach out to the masses and spread awareness about substance use with focus on higher educational Institutions, university campuses, schools across the country. Through this campaign about 38.8+ lakh people (including 21 lakh Youths and 10 lakh Women) of Bihar have been sensitized on substance use. Awareness is also being spread through Social Media accounts of the Abhiyaan on X, Facebook & Instagram.

Annexure-I

Substance	Children & Adolescents (10-17 years)	
	Prevalence (in %)	Estimated no. of users
Alcohol	0.10	282000
Cannabis	0.42	99000
Opioids	0.17	40000
Sedatives	0.03	8000
Inhalants	0.12	29000
Cocaine	<0.01	<1000
Amphetamines Type Stimulants (ATS)	0.01	3000
Hallucinogens	0.01	3000

Substance	Adults (18-75 years)	
	Prevalence (in %)	Estimated no. of users
Alcohol	1.00	660000
Cannabis	1.68	1106000
Opioids	0.20	131000
Sedatives	0.07	45000
Inhalants	0.06	39000.00
Cocaine	<0.01	<1000
Amphetamines Type Stimulants (ATS)	0.01	7000.00
Hallucinogens	0.02	12000.00
