GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4228 TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.01.2019

Use of Drugs in Schools

4228. SHRI PREM DAS RAI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the three corporations have identified 1820 school kids between the age 7-10 years who consume tobacco, solutions, inhalers, gutkha and other drugs in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of children died due to using such drugs in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme for protection of school children from drug abuse including steps taken to crack down on alleged sale of drugs among students in schools and college campus and if so, the details thereof:
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the number of illegal use of drugs in different Central Universities?

ANSWER MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH)

- (a): The three corporations viz. North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC), South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) and East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) have identified 723 school kids between the age 7-10 years who consume tobacco, solutions, inhalers, gutkha and other drugs.
- (b) NDMC, SDMC and EDMC have identified 441, 209 and 73 such kids respectively. However, no death has been reported till date in the three Municipal Corporations of Delhi. As regard to states and other UTs, no such data is being maintained.

(c) & (d): The Ministry of Human Resource Development has issued guidelines to all the States & UTs which provides that Life-skills education should address, interalia, the issue of drug abuse. The Government has formulated the policy for protection of school children from drug abuse. The Sections 77 and 78 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 provide penal provisions for giving intoxicating liquor or narcotics or psychotropic substance to a child or using a child for vending, peddling, carrying, supplying or smuggling any intoxicating liquor, narcotic drug or psychotropic substance. The National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), an autonomous organization under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, conducts sensitization and preventive education programs in schools and colleges on regular basis. During 2017-18, NISD conducted 247 awareness generation programs in various Schools and Universities/Colleges covering 23006 beneficiaries. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has also issued advisories to schools to promote the cause of prevention of drug abuse. Similarly, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) undertook a pan India Radio awareness campaign through All India Radio on FM Rainbow and Vividh Bharti channels from 13th to 19th May, 2016 (one week) against substance abuse by children and their use in carrying, supplying, smuggling, etc. of tobacco products and other intoxicants.

Further, University Grants Commission (UGC) has framed guidelines on safety of students on and off campuses of Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) on 27.01.2016. HEIs should mandatorily put in place a broad-based "Student Counseling System" for the effective management of problems and challenges faced by students. It should be a unique, interactive and target oriented system, involving students, teachers and parents, resolved to address common student concerns ranging from anxiety, stress, fear of change and failure to homesickness and a slew of academic worries. UGC has also issued guidelines for strict compliance of the "the cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 which contained certain provision pertaining to educational institutions. Guidelines were also issued for: "Preventing sale of drugs to school and college children"

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment had also notified a scheme of National Awards for outstanding services in the field of Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse in order to recognize the efforts and encourage excellence in the field of prevention of substance abuse and rehabilitation of its victims.

(e): No such data is being maintained.