

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †282
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2019**

NATIONAL POLICY ON DRUG ADDICTION

†282. SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any national policy to check alcohol and drug addiction among children as per the direction of the Supreme Court;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the fresh steps taken by the Government to tackle the danger of drug addiction among children, especially among adolescents?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)

(a) to (d) As per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, this Ministry has prepared a National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) for 2018-2023. The Plan aims at reduction of adverse consequences of drug abuse through a multi-pronged strategy involving education, de-addiction and rehabilitation of affected individuals and their families. It focuses on preventive education, awareness generation, identification, counselling, treatment and rehabilitation of drug dependent persons and training and capacity building of the service providers through collaborative efforts of the Central and State Governments and Non-Governmental Organizations. The activities to be undertaken under the NAPDDR, inter-alia, include awareness generation programmes in schools involving students, teachers and parents, conducting workshops, seminars and interaction with parents, training of teachers and counsellors on different assessment tools etc.

This Ministry also implements a "Central Sector Scheme of Assistance for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse" under which financial assistance is provided to eligible Non-Governmental Organizations, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Urban Local Bodies etc. for, inter-alia, running and maintenance of Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCAs).

The Ministry has issued an Advisory on 11.08.2016 to all the States/UTs on combating drug abuse which advises them to prepare an Action Plan which, inter-alia, includes

conducting sensitization and preventive education programmes in schools and colleges throughout the year.

The National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), an autonomous organization under this Ministry, conducts capacity building programmes, sensitization and preventive education programmes in schools and colleges on regular basis.

During the year 2017-18, NISD has conducted 247 awareness generation programmes in various Schools and Universities/Colleges covering 23006 beneficiaries.

Besides, the Ministry has undertaken the following initiatives:-

i) The Ministry has, in the year 2016, conducted an awareness generation programme, in collaboration with Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth (SPIC MACAY), to create awareness in children and youth about the harmful effects of substance abuse in 156 schools in 22 districts of Punjab covering about 52,800 students.

ii) The Ministry also uses print, electronic and social media for creating awareness. Information regarding ill-effects of alcoholism and drug abuse is also disseminated in regional languages through the All India Radio programme "Sanwarti Jayen Jeevan Ki Rahen" and also through advertisements in newspapers.

iii) The Ministry celebrates the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26th June every year by holding functions and organizing exhibitions to sensitize the people about the ill effects of drug abuse. National Awards are also conferred to individuals and institutions in order to recognize the efforts and encourage excellence in the field of prevention of substance abuse.

iv) The Ministry has set up a National Toll Free Drug De-addiction Helpline Number 1800-11-0031 w.e.f. 07.01.2015 to help the victims of drug abuse, their family and society at large. The Helpline has been made functional on 24 x 7 basis w.e.f. March, 2017.
