

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 431  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2019**

**PREVENTION OF DRUG ABUSE**

**431. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:**

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

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the use of drugs is increasing;
- (b) if so, the action taken by the Government to reduce the use of drugs;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to start de-addiction centres in all districts;
- (d) if so, the details of the action taken thereon;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to start de-addiction centres in all district hospitals and if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to launch a campaign with public participation so as to prevent drug abuse in the country; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
(SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)**

(a): At present, there is no authentic data available in the Ministry in this regard.

(b) to (g): This Ministry 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, District Hospitals, etc. for, inter-alia, running and maintenance of Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCAs).

The number of de-addiction centres to be established in States/Union Territories depends on the number of proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territories Administration. The parameters that are taken into consideration for recommending an organization to be eligible to receive grant from the Ministry include equal geographical spread ensuring due considerations to un-served and under-served areas.

Further, this Ministry has also 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 NAPDDR gives emphasis on availability of IRCAs in each district or as per prevalence of addiction and also establishing and assisting de-addiction centres in District Government and Private Hospitals/Medical Colleges. The other activities under the NAPDDR, inter-alia, include:-

- i) awareness generation programme in schools involving students, teachers and parents;
- ii) conducting workshops, seminars and interaction with parents;
- iii) training of teachers and counselors on different assessment tools;
- iv) increasing community participation and public cooperation in the reduction of demand for dependence producing substances by involving Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), National Service Scheme (NSS) and other local groups like Mahila Mandals, Yuvak Mandals, Self Help Groups etc.

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 substances abuse in 156 schools in 22 districts of Punjab covering about 52,800 students.
- ii) The Ministry has set up a National Toll Free Drug De-addiction Helpline Number 1800-11-0031 w.e.f. 7.1.2015 to help the victims of drug abuse, their family and society at large. The Helpline has been made functional on 24x7 basis w.e.f. March, 2017.
- iii) 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.
- iv) 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 "Sanwanti Jayen Jeevan Ki Rahen" and also through advertisements in newspapers.
- v) The Ministry celebrates the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

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