

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3127  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2019**

**DRUGS IN FORM OF MEDICINAL TABLETS**

**3127. SHRI S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that young generation/youth are taking drugs in the form of medicinal tablets in the country and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (b) whether the Government has given any direction to Drug Controller of India in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the concrete measures being taken by the Government to prevent such menace?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a): Instances in which youth are found taking drugs in the form of medicinal tablets are reported from time to time. Action under law is taken against such offenders.

The National Survey to assess the extent and pattern of substance use in India conducted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India whose report was released in February 2019 showed that a sizeable proportion of people use medicinal tablets for recreational purpose. About one percent of the Indian population between the age of 10-75 years uses pharmaceutical opioids as well as sedative/hypnotic medicines as psychoactive substance for recreational purpose. About 25 lakh people require help for their pharmaceutical opioid use, while 11.8 lakh people require help for sedative/hypnotic use. Drug Treatment Clinics have been set up in different parts of the country to help those who have problems due to use of these drugs.

(b): Sale and distribution of drugs is regulated in terms of the provisions of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945 made thereunder through a system of licensing and inspection. As per the provisions of the Act and Rules, drugs included in Schedule H, H1 and X are required to be sold by retail only on the prescription of Registered Medical Practitioners (RMP). The State Licensing Authorities are empowered to take action on any violation of the conditions of sale license. In order to check illegal sale of drugs, the State Drug Controllers are sensitized from time to time in the matter.

(c): Following measures have been taken to curb the drug menace among youth:

- Based on the complaints/inputs from students/school staff, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) officials conduct random checks in educational institutions to identify and apprehend drug peddlers.
- Visit of NCB representatives to schools for conducting awareness programmes, making the vulnerable classes of society aware of the abuse of narcotic drugs and its ill effects.
- Awareness against drug use through NCB Facebook page and Twitter Handle: to inform the public/students about the ill effects of drug abuse and drug trafficking.
- NCB organizes International Day against Drugs Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26<sup>th</sup> June every year in all field units of NCB to spread awareness among the general public/students about the ill effects of drug abuse and drug trafficking.
- Rallies, Dramas are conducted regularly in association with NGOs to spread awareness programs in educational institutions all over the country.
- SMS alerts of Drug Awareness are flashed through mobile service providers on special occasions to general public.
- Workshops and Seminars are organized in coordination with various Government agencies and NGOs in the country to sensitize about the ill effects of drug abuse and trafficking.