

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

**STARRED QUESTION NO.\*125  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.12.2021**

**DRUG ADDICTION AMONG CHILDREN**

**\*125. SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing number of children between 10 and 17 years of age consuming Cannabis, Opioids and Inhalants and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is maintaining the data of increasing drug consumption in colleges and universities all over the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check the addiction of children and youth towards narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to undertake a survey on prevalence of drug addiction along the lines of the 'National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India 2019' on a regular five year interval and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
(DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR)**

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**Statement in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question \*125 for answer on 07.12.2021 by Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma on "Drug Addiction among Children"**

- (a) As per the 'National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India', in age group of 10 - 17 years, the percentage users of substances are cannabis (0.92%), opioids (1.78%), sedatives (0.58%) and inhalants (1.17%).
- (b) As a part of Comprehensive National Survey , a focused thematic Study, "Substance Use among Students" was conducted in 10 locations across the country, which showed that 13.1% of students were users of cannabis (which includes 6.4% of Bhang users), opioids (5%), sedatives (2.1%) and inhalants (3.2%).

(c) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formulated and implemented National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) under which the Government is taking a sustained and coordinated action for arresting the problem of substance abuse among the youth. This includes:

i. Launched Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) in 272 most vulnerable districts under which a massive community outreach is being done through more than 8000 youth volunteers.

- Through the various activities undertaken for the Abhiyaan, 1.27+ Crore people have been reached out so far in the identified districts.
- More than 44 lakh youth have actively participated in the Abhiyaan with the involvement of Yuva Mandals, NSS/NCC Volunteers.
- 29+ lakh students have been reached with events, competitions and sessions organized in 27,000+ educational institutions.
- Social Media accounts of the Abhiyaan on Twitter, Facebook & Instagram have acted as effective medium for spreading awareness among children and youth about not using drugs and ensure strong online presence of the Abhiyaan.
- An internship programme was initiated where 250+ students worked as Social Media interns and reached out to 18+ lakh people with 65,000+ posts across the country using their social media handles.
- Eminent Universities & Colleges across the country are actively involved in the implementation of Abhiyaan activities in their campuses and vulnerable communities present around them.
- A host of online events like Capacity Building Workshop for Youth, Panel Discussion with DC/DMs, Expert Panel Discussion, Online competitions *etc.* have also been organized with the involvement and participation from the highest authorities, subject matter & domain experts from different fields.
- Technology is being effectively utilized to capture the field activities on real time basis and also to make the information accessible to general public.
  - A Website (<http://nmba.dosje.gov.in>) for the NMBA has been launched to provide real time information to the public about NMBA
  - A mobile Application for the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan was launched by the Ministry to gather and collect the data and the information of the activities that are happening on-ground. This App is being used by the Master Volunteers in the field who are organizing and conducting activities for the Abhiyaan and also by the District Officials. All this collected data is represented real time on the NMBA Dashboard where detailed information can be viewed on a district, state and national level by the stakeholders as well as public.

- An interactive space for Forum & Discussion is provided on NMBA website where people can anonymously ask questions on any information related to substance abuse which are answered within the next 24 hours by subject matter and domain experts who are affiliated to eminent institutions like NIMHANS & PGIMER.
- All the rehabilitation, treatment and counselling facilities supported by the Ministry have been geo-tagged to make them accessible and easier to locate. All the details of the de-addiction centres are available on the public domain on the websites of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) as well as the Ministry.
- An online training module on 'Basic Course on Substance (Drug) Abuse Prevention' is prepared and put on the online training platform of the Ministry 'TAPAS' wherein people can register and undergo this informative training course.

ii. 364 Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCAs) are supported by the Ministry. These IRCAs not only provide for treating the drug victims, but also give services of preventive education, awareness generation, motivational counselling, detoxification/de-addiction, after care and re-integration into the social mainstream.

iii. 54 Community based Peer led Intervention (CPLI) Centres are supported by the Ministry. These CPLIs focus on vulnerable and at risk children and adolescents. Under this, peer educators engage children for awareness generation and life skill activities.

iv. 87 Outreach and Drop In Centres (ODICs) are supported by the Ministry. These ODICs provide safe and secure space of treatment and rehabilitation for substance users, with provision of screening, assessment and counselling and thereafter provide referral and linkage to treatment and rehabilitation services for substance dependence.

v. Ministry also supports setting up of 35 Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) in some Government hospitals, which is being implemented through AIIMS, New Delhi.

vi. A Toll-free Helpline for de-addiction, 14446 is being maintained by the Ministry for providing primary counseling and immediate assistance to the persons seeking help through this helpline.

vii. Ministry through its autonomous body National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) and other collaborating agencies like SCERTs, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan etc. provides for regular awareness generation and sensitization sessions for all stakeholders including students, teachers, parents. So far, 1,67,042 persons have been sensitized through these programmes in the last 2 years and current financial year.

(d): Yes Sir. The first comprehensive National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India was conducted in 2018 and published in 2019, to be updated on a regular basis.

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