

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3400
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2023**

MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEM

3400. SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY:

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

- (a) whether the Government recognize substance or alcohol abuse as a mental health problem;
- (b) if so, the details of steps taken by the Government to tackle the issue including the funding for the same, especially in Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to help alcohol or another substance addicts to find safe space to discuss their struggles with de-addiction;
- (d) whether any specific funds have been allocated in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SUSHRI PRATIMA BHOUMIK)**

(a): The Mental Health Care Act (MHCA), 2017 of India defines mental illness as "substantial disorder of thinking, mood, perception, orientation or memory that grossly impairs judgment, behaviour, capacity to recognise reality or ability to meet the ordinary demands of life, mental conditions associated with the abuse of alcohol and drugs but does not include mental retardation which is a condition of arrested or incomplete development of mind of a person, specially characterised by subnormality of intelligence". Thus, substance use disorders are included within the definition of mental illness in India.

(b): The details of steps taken by the Government to tackle the issue including the funding for the same, especially in Andhra Pradesh is placed at **Annexure**.

(c): As per National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction(NAPDDR) scheme implemented by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, the Ministry financially supports Outreach and Drop In Centres (ODICs) through grant-in-aid. 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. Currently, there are 71 ODICs in the country which are being funded by this Ministry.

(d) & (e): As mentioned at part (b), the funds allocated to NAPDDR scheme also includes release of funds to NGOs/VOs to run ODIC projects. The funds are released to eligible NGOs/VOs, which have been selected by the Ministry as per eligibility criteria, to run ODICs as per guidelines mentioned in NAPDDR scheme.

Annexure to Reply for Point (b) of Lok Sabha Admitted Unstarred Question No. 3400 on 21.03.2023

To address the problem of Drug Abuse among children and women, 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 and women. This includes:

- a. Launched **Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA)** in 372 most vulnerable districts under which a massive community outreach is being done through more than 8000 youth volunteers. More than 9.54+ crore people have been reached out so far including 3.12+ crore youth, 2.06+ crore women and 3.14+ lakh educational institutes. **In Andhra Pradesh, 8 districts viz. Vishakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Chittoor, Anantapur, Nellore have been identified under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan.**
 - b. 340 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. Ministry also provided support to special de-addiction centre for women and children. **Currently, 10 IRCAs are running in state of Andhra Pradesh.**
 - c. 48 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. **Currently, 4 CPLIs are running in state of Andhra Pradesh.**
 - d. 71 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. **Currently, 4 ODICs are running in state of Andhra Pradesh.**
 - e. Ministry also supports setting up of 46 Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) in some Government hospitals, which is being implemented through AIIMS, New Delhi. **Currently, 1 ATF is running in state of Andhra Pradesh.**
 - f. 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.
 - g. 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.
2. The Ministry has allocated Rs. 200 crores (Two Hundred Crores) for National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction for FY 2022-23. The funds are not allocated state-wise. **Till now, 2.39 crores have been released to various NGOs/VOs of Andhra Pradesh to run IRCA/ODIC/CPLI projects under NAPDDR scheme.**
