

since 1988. Their demands relate to the use of Indian Languages in the UPSC's examinations and discontinuance of the compulsory paper in English.

(b) No, Sir. The Resolution passed by both the Houses of Parliament in January, 1968 envisaged :-

- (1) that compulsory knowledge of either Hindi or English shall be required at the stage of selection of candidates for recruitment to the Union services or posts except in respect of any special services or posts for which a high standard of knowledge of English alone or Hindi alone, or both as the case may be, is considered essential for the satisfactory performance of the duties of any such service or post; and
- (2) that all the languages included in the 8th Schedule to the Constitution and English shall be permitted as alternative media for the All India and higher Central Services Examinations after ascertaining the views of the Union Public Service Commission of the future scheme of the examinations, the procedural aspects and the timing.

(c) Under Section 3 of the Official Languages Act, 1963, the use of English language has been continued for such of the official work of the Union for which it was being used earlier.

(d) The question of retention of English and introduction of other languages, included in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution, as alternative media of examinations conducted by the UPSC was considered by Satish Chandra. Committee, the recommendations of which are under examination of the Government in consultation with the State Governments etc. with a view to arriving at a consensus.

[English]

Drug Abuse

*591. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY :

DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA :

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

(a) the extent to which the problem of drug abuse exists in the country;

(b) the measures taken by the Government to combat this menace; and

(c) the number of de-addiction centres opened by the Government in the North-East region, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Though no nation-wide survey has been conducted to assess the extent of the drug abuse problem in the country, different studies and reports indicate that there is rise in incidence of drug abuse amongst certain vulnerable sections of society such as street children, transport workers, commercial sex workers, slum dwellers, etc.

(b) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has provided assistance to 81 Government Medical Colleges/District Hospitals to run drug de-addiction centres. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, provides assistance to 278 NGOs for running de-addiction centres, counselling centres and rehabilitation centres.

(c) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has provided assistance to 25 drug de-addiction centres in North Eastern States, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment are running 17 drug de-addiction centres through NGOs in the North-East. The State-wise detail is given in the Statement.

Statement

Drug De-addiction centres in North East Region

State	Supported by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare	Supported by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Assam	6	1
Manipur	8	10
Meghalaya	1	Nil
Mizoram	3	4
Nagaland	6	2
Tripura	1	Nil
Total	25	17

Price of Life Saving Drugs

*592. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of life saving drugs have gone up very high;

(b) if so, whether the Government are planning to control or reduce the price of life saving drugs;