

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2395**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6TH AUGUST, 2024/ SHRAVAN 15, 1946 (SAKA)

DRUG MENACE IN PUNJAB

2395 SHRI AMRINDER SINGH RAJA WARRING:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced in 2022 for setting up of forensic lab and opening of NCB in Amritsar after affirming that the Centre stands “shoulder to shoulder with Punjab to manage the drug crisis” that the State faces and the status and development with regard to the announced promises;

(b) whether the Ministry got any assessment done to analyse the situation and extent of drug abuse in Punjab and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of arrests and cases registered under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act during the last five years; and

(d) whether any preventive as well constructive measures Government is undertaking or planning to undertake to stop the spread of drug abuse among youth in Punjab, including any special employment opportunities?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)**

a) The Zonal Unit of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) at Amritsar has been made fully functional in February, 2023. Subsequently, a regional office of NCB for Northern Western Region headed by a Deputy Director General has been made functional in July, 2023 at Amritsar. As regard to

the Forensic Laboratory, Government of India has provided Rs.7.98 crore to the State of Punjab for strengthening DNA analysis, cyber forensic and related facilities in State Forensic Science Laboratory. No proposal has been received from Government of Punjab for Mobile Forensic Vehicles and machinery and equipment for State Forensic Science Laboratory (SFSL) under the scheme of Modernization of Forensic Capacities.

b) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJ&E) has conducted the comprehensive National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India through the National Drug Dependence and Treatment Centre (NDDTC) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi during 2018. The report of the survey was released in February, 2019. As per the National Survey, the details of drugs abuse in Punjab are as under:

Drug	Adult (Age 18-75)	
	Prevalence of Use (%)	Estimated No. of Users
Cannabis	14.23	30,68,000
Opioids	9.91	21,36,000
Cocaine	0.69	1,50,000
Amphetamines Stimulants	Type 0.63	1,36,000

Source: MoSJ&E

c) As per latest data published by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) pertaining to the year 2022, details of cases registered and arrest made under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 in the State of Punjab during 2018-2022 is as under: -

SL	Year	Number of Cases registered	Number of persons arrested
1	2018	11654	14983
2	2019	11536	16296
3	2020	6909	11455
4	2021	9972	14078
5	2022	12442	17853

Source: Crime in India, 2022 NCRB

d) The Government has taken various steps to prevent drug smuggling and Drug Demand Reduction, some of which are as under: -

- (i) A dedicated Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) has been established in the State.**
- (ii) Coordination and sharing of intelligence in real time with various Drug Law Enforcement Agencies.**
- (iii) To monitor the investigation of important and significant seizures, a Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) under the chairmanship of Director General, NCB has been set up.**

- (iv) The Government has launched 1933- MANAS Helpline designed as a unified platform for citizens to report the drug-related issues via multiple communication.**
- (v) Border Guarding Forces including Border Security Force (BSF) have been empowered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act 1985 to carry out search, seizure and arrest for illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs at international border. Further, Railway Protection Force (RPF) has also been empowered under NDPS Act to check drug trafficking along the railway routes.**
- (vi) Towards the capacity building of drug law enforcement agencies of the state of Punjab, NCB is continuously imparting training to the officers of BSF and other drug law enforcement agencies.**
- (vii) Detailed vulnerability mapping has been carried out along India-Pakistan border to strengthen surveillance by deploying additional special surveillance equipment, vehicles, etc.**
- (viii) Effective domination of the borders by carrying out round the clock surveillance of the border viz. patrolling, laying of Nakas,**

manning observation posts all along the International Border (IB).

- (ix) Installation of Border Flood lights along border security fence to light up the area during hours of darkness.**
- (x) Use of Water Craft/ Boats and floating Border Outposts for domination of riverine area of International Border (IB).**
- (xi) Strengthening of Intelligence network and coordination with sister agencies.**
- (xii) Anti-Drone System (ADS) are installed at India-Pakistan border against the menace of rogue drones from counterpart.**
- (xiii) Government has formulated and implemented the 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 across the country including State of Punjab. This includes:
 - (a) Launching of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) in all districts of Punjab. More than 5.5 lakh people in State of Punjab have been reached out including more than 75,000 Youth and 27,000 women under the Abhiyaan.****

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(b) 10 Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) in Government hospitals is being implemented through All India Institute of Medical science (AIIMS), New Delhi.

(c) A Toll-free Helpline for de-addiction, 14446 is being maintained by the Government for providing primary counseling and immediate assistance to persons seeking help.

(d) Navchetna Modules, teachers training modules have been developed by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE) for sensitizing students (6th-11th standard), teachers and parents on drug dependence, related coping strategies and life skills.

(e) Awareness through official Social Media accounts of the Abhiyaan on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

(f) NMBA Mobile Application developed to gather and collect the data of NMBA activities and represent on the NMBA Dashboard at district, State and National level.

(g) NMBA Website (<http://nmba.dosje.gov.in>) provides detailed information and insights to the user/viewer about the Abhiyaan, an online discussion forum, NMBA dashboard, e-pledge.

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(h) MoUs have been signed with spiritual/ social service organisations like The Art of Living, Brahma Kumaris & Sant Nirankari Mission, Shri Ram Chandra Mission, All World Gayatri Pariwar and ISKCON to support NMBA and conduct mass awareness activities.
