

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:334
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2003
DRUG ABUSE
CHARAN DAS MAHANT;SHYAMA SINGH

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

- (a) whether the Government are aware that the number of drug abusers is increasing in the urban areas of the country day by day;
- (b) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to a report in the Hindu dated 5th January, 2003 in this regard;
- (c) if so, the facts in this regard;
- (d) if so, whether the Government have formulated any strategy to check the increase in drug abuse in the country and also sought foreign assistance in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) The press report has highlighted the findings of "Drug Abuse Monitoring System", a study undertaken by the Government of India in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime (UNODC) (earlier known as United Nations International Drug Control Programme - UNDCP), Regional Office for South Asia to assess the profile of treatment seekers for addiction to alcohol and drugs.

(d) & (e) Recognising drug abuse as psycho-socio medical problem, requiring community based interventions, the Government is implementing the "Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse", wherein registered Non Government Organizations are provided financial support for awareness programmes, counselling, treatment and rehabilitation services in varied settings such as community, workplaces, educational institutions, prisons, etc. The quality in services is ensured through the implementation of the minimum standards formulated for different services. To strengthen the service delivery of the programme, the Ministry is also implementing community-based projects in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime and International Labour Organization.