

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2142  
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2004  
DRUG ADDICTION IN RURAL AREAS  
Nambadan Shri Lonappan

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

- (a) whether the reports about the drug users including women in rural India is at high rise;
- (b) if so, the reasons for this menace alongwith the details of findings of recent survey in this regard; and
- (c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to redress this problem?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN)

- (a) No, Sir. However, the findings of the National Survey on the Extent, Pattern and Trends of Drug Abuse indicate substantial abuse of alcohol, cannabis and opiates (excluding heroin, which has low prevalence) in the rural areas.
- (b) No specific reasons have been mentioned in the report of the Survey.
- (c) Recognizing drug abuse as a 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 being provided financial support for awareness programmes, counseling, treatment and rehabilitation services in varied settings such as the community, workplace, educational institutions, prisons, etc. with an objective of reducing the incidence and consumption of illicit drugs. Presently, under the Scheme 361 NGOs are being funded for running 62 Counseling & Awareness Centres and 379 treatment- cum-Rehabilitation Centres all over the country, besides Deaddiction Camps and Workplace Prevention Programmes. Against an expenditure of Rs. 22.65 crores during 2003-04, an allocation of Rs. 29.15 crores has been made under the Scheme for the financial year 2004-05. A greater thrust is being given for addressing drug abuse in rural population through De-addiction Camps, which provide awareness and treatment services in rural settings where the services of Treatment Centres are either not available or are inaccessible.