

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3933
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2010
INFECTED DRUG USERS
Gangaram Shri Awale Jaywant

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of Infected Drug Users (IDUs) is increasing in the NCT of Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to control such problem in consultation with Health Ministry and Medical Fraternity?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) & (b): 6,070 to 9,605 injecting Drug Users are estimated to be in Delhi as per the India HIV Estimate 2006 (ICMR-NACO, Government of India).

(c) & (d): No, Madam. However, the Department of AIDS Control, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has proposed to take up a new mapping exercise to ascertain the number of IDUs in Delhi.

(e): The department of AIDS Control, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare engages with NGOs to implement services for IDUs which includes identifying the IDUs, education on HIV/ AIDS, counseling, provision of sterile equipments, condoms, motivation and referral to testing centers, treatment of wounds, and sexually transmitted infections, etc.

In addition, a new treatment for IDUs called as Opioid substitution therapy is provided to wean the IDUs out of their injecting habit. The department is also in consultation with other Ministries/Departments for working on the issue of drug addiction.