

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3100
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2010
DRUG ABUSE MENACE
Tewari Shri Manish

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

- (a) whether there has been an alarming increase in the number of drug addicts, opium, poppy husk and pills consumers across the country, especially in the State of Punjab;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has commissioned any comprehensive study to determine the extent of the problem of drug abuse and also ascertain the sociological and familiae impacts of the growing malaise of drug abuse especially in Punjab and across the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to tackle this social menace and create social awareness among the general public?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON)

(a)&(b) There is no authentic data to conclusively indicate that there is an increase in the number of drug addicts, opium, poppy husk and pills consumers across the country, including the State of Punjab.

(c)&(d) National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) was requested to carry out a Pilot Survey on Prevalence and Dependence on Harmful Drugs in Mumbai, Punjab and Manipur. The NSSO report on the Survey has not been finalized.

(e) The Ministry is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Assistance for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse. The objectives of the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse are:

- # To create awareness and educate people about the ill-effects of alcoholism and substance abuse on the individual, the family, the workplace and society at large;
- # To provide for the whole range of community based services for the identification, motivation, counselling, de-addiction, after care and rehabilitation for addicts;
- # To alleviate the consequences of drug and alcohol dependence amongst the individual, the family and society at large; and
- # To facilitate research, training, documentation and collection of relevant information to strengthen the above mentioned objectives.

On 26th June every year i.e. International Day against Illicit Trafficking and Drug Abuse, National Drug Awareness Day is observed and special campaign is undertaken to spread awareness .

The National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) working under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC) functioning under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare have also developed IEC-Health Education materials on drugs and alcohol and how to prevent their use for public distribution.