

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1214
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2011
ADDICTION AMONG CHILDREN
Shukla Shri Balkrishna Khanderao Balu Shukla

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

- (a) whether many children in the country are becoming addicted to consume naphthalene balls, petrol, diesel, thinner, nail-polish remover, pain-relieving ointments as intoxicants;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to launch any special scheme to address the problem; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) There is no authentic data to conclusively indicate about the number of addicted children in the country.
- (b) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment implements a `Central Sector Scheme of Assistance for Prevantion of Alocholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse` under which financial assistance is provided, inter-alia, to Non-Governmental Organisations, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Urban Local Bodies, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan for running Integrated Rehabilitation Centre for Addicts (IRCA) to provide composite/integrated services for the rehabilitation of the addicts including children on the basis of recommendation of the State Government. The Ministry in collaboration with National Bal Bhawan (through its network of 155 affiliated Bal Bhavans and 77 Bal Kendras) has started an awareness generation programme among the children of the age group of 12-16 year through a series of activities like poster making, creative writing, lecture, rally, nukkad natak etc. at local, zonal and national level during the current year at a project cost of Rs. 1.06 crore. Similarly, in collaboration with Nehru Yuva Kenra Sanghathan (NYKS), an awareness generation programme in the State of Punjab and Manipur covering 3000 villages of 10 Districts in the State of Punjab and 750 villages of 7 Districts in the State of Manipur has been started at a project cost of Rs.3.50 crores. Nehru Yuva Kendra Sanghathan through its network of volunteers at village level will create awareness about the ill affects of alcoholism and Substance (Drug) abuse among the rural masses through door to door campaign, wall writing, candle march, poster campaign, street play etc. De-addiction camps will also be organized for the identified addicts.
- (c) No, sir.
- (d) Does not arise.