

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1896
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2013
NATIONAL DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION POLICY
Tandon Annu

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

- (a) whether the Government has concluded its consultation process with stakeholders on the National Drug Demand Reduction Policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is considering changes in the Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances Act to criminalize possession of drugs irrespective of the amount; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT)

(a) & (b) : No, Madam. Comments from some of the concerned Central Government Ministries and a number of States/UTs are awaited on the draft National Drug Demand Reduction Policy circulated by this Ministry.

(c) & (d) : As per information provided by Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, possession of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances is already a criminal offence under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. Chapter IV of the NDPS Act, 1985 provides for offences and penalties. The NDPS Act provides graded system of punishment and the quantum of punishment is linked to whether the quantum of Narcotic drug/Psychotropic substance involved in a case is small, commercial or an intermediate quantity. The NDPS Act has vested the power to notify small and commercial quantity of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances upon the Central Government. Accordingly, Government of India has notified `small and `commercial` quantities of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.