

(d) and (e) The proposal of Maharashtra, for the year 2010-11, under the Scheme was received in the Ministry on 25.01.2011. Based on this proposal, 18 hostels were sanctioned to Maharashtra as follows:

(Rs.in crore)			
Target	No. of.	Inmates	Central
Group	Hostels sanctioned in 2010-11		Assistance released
SC Boys	09	567	5.67
SC Girls	09	572	11.44
Total	18	1139	17.11

Review of SC/ST PoA Act

1199. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act needs a review in view of judgment of the Mirchpur case;
- (b) whether there is a case for making the Act caste neutral for punishment; and
- (c) if so, Government's reaction in this regard and the efforts made to effect the change in the law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON) : (a) to (c) Comprehensive amendment to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, is under consideration.

Role of NGOs in checking drug abuse

1200. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Union Government has decided to extend financial assistance to rural and urban local bodies to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the alcohol and drug abuse cases have been increasing in the country and the role played by NGOs to check such abuse has not been found satisfactory; and

(d) if so, the plans envisaged to prevent alcohol and drug abuse in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON) : (a) and (b) Under the Ministry's Central Sector Scheme of "Assistance for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse and for Social Defence Services", Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies are already eligible for financial assistance, subject to their proposal being recommended by the State level Grant-in-Committee alongwith satisfactory inspection report furnished by the State Government.

(c) and (d) There is no authentic data to conclusively indicate that the problem of alcohol and drug abuse is increasing in the country. To tackle the problems of alcoholism and substance abuse, Ministry of Social Justice is implementing the "Central Sector Scheme of Assistance for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse" under which financial assistance is provided to Non Governmental and other eligible organizations for running and maintenance of Integrated Rehabilitation Centre for Addicts (IRCAs), which provides services such as awareness generation, counseling, treatment, rehabilitation & social re-integration of drug dependent persons. At present, 416 IRCAs are being provided financial assistance under the scheme. Financial assistance is provided to the NGOs only on the basis of the recommendation of the State level Grant-in-aid Committee along with satisfactory inspection report furnished by the State Government.

Recently, Ministry has engaged Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and National Bal Bhavan, an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Human Resources Development in programmes of creating awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse. NYKS through its network of volunteers will create awareness about ill effects of drug abuse among the youth in 3000 villages of 10 Districts in the State of Punjab and 750 villages of 7 Districts in the State of Manipur through door to door campaign, wall writing, candle march, poster campaign, street play etc. De-addiction camps will also be organized. National Bal Bhavan through its network of 155 affiliated Bal Bhavans and 77 Bal Kendras will create awareness about ill effects of drugs among children through a series of activities like poster making, creative writing, lecture, rally, nukkad natak etc. at local, zonal and national level.