

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI PORIKA BALRAM NAIK): (a) to (d) The Law Commission of India, in its 243rd Report, has recommended amendments to section 498A, making it non-bailable and compoundable. The Hon'ble Committee on Petitions of Rajya Sabha, in its 140th Report also recommended, inter-alia, effective steps to be taken by State Governments to curb misuse of section 498A of IPC. As the subject matter comes under the ambit of the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, the matter has to be consulted with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Report of the Law Commission has, therefore, been referred to all the State Governments/UT Administrations for their views. Accordingly, an advisory has been issued to all the State Governments/UT Administrations on 16.01.2012.

Drug use among children

2921. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) how many children have been found to use drugs under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000;
- (b) what action has been taken thereafter;
- (c) whether they have been sent for treatment for drug de-addiction and rehabilitation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and where they have been sent for treatment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI PORIKA BALRAM NAIK): (a) to (d) The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 as amended in 2011 provides for in-patient treatment of children, who are addicted to any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance, in Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts being run under the "Central Sector Scheme of Assistance for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse and for Social Defence Services" of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment or any other corresponding scheme for the time being in force. However, the information regarding the number of children who have been found to use drugs under the said Act is not maintained.

Survey for assessment of drug addicted children

2922. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any Nation-wide/State-wise survey/assessment of drug addicted children below 18 years of age;

(b) if so, the name of organizations entrusted the task and the dates thereof and the details of reports submitted by them;

(c) if not, whether the Ministry is ready to consider to carry out survey for such minor children; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI PORIKA BALRAM NAIK): (a) to (d) No Survey has been conducted for assessment of drug addicted children below the age of 18 years of age. However, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in collaboration with the United National Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) had conducted a national survey on drug abuse in the country in the year 2000-2001. The report was published in 2004 wherein it was estimated that about 732 lakh persons in India were user of alcohol and drugs. However the sample size being small (40,697 males only) *viz-a-viz* the country's population, the estimates can at best be taken as indicative only.

A considerable time has since passed, therefore, National Sample Survey Officer (NSSO) has been requested to carry out an advanced pilot survey in 3 States *viz.* Punjab, Maharashtra and Manipur to test the efficacy of the sampling design and survey instruments for a National Survey. The advanced pilot Survey and the National Survey to be conducted by NSSO will cover the children below the age of 18 years.

Growing number of senior citizens

2923. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether with increasing life expectancy, the number of senior citizens is growing;

(b) if so, the magnitude of this growth during 2001 and 2010 and anticipated during 2010-2020;

(c) whether a new National Policy for older persons is under preparation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and