

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) has informed that the United Nations General Assembly will hold a Special Session (UNGASS) on drugs in 2016. This Special Session will discuss the achievements made so far with respect to the goals set in the “Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem” adopted in 2009 which defined action to be taken by Member States as well as goals to be achieved by 2019. With a view to effectively articulate the position of the Government of India during the UNGASS 2016, Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) has initiated consultation with all concerned Ministry/ Department/Agency on the issues likely to be discussed and action taken on the Political Declaration and Plan of Action adopted in 2009.

(c) The Drug Controller General (India) has informed that the medicines like Buprenorphine is already approved by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization for Opioid De-addiction subject to certain restrictions regarding its supply and sale. The drug is also controlled under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 and Rules thereunder.

Manual scavenging during religious congregations

2838. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that during the Hindu religious congregations such as the Kumbhamelas in Nashik in Maharashtra thousands of dry latrines are constructed that forces the manual scavenging; and

(b) if so, what steps does the Ministry propose to take in this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) and (b) The State Government of Maharashtra has informed that no dry latrines are constructed or proposed to be constructed for the Sinhastha Kumbhamelas in Nashik.

Misuse of Atrocities on SC/ST Act

2839. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether Government is actively considering to make Prevention of Atrocities on SCs/STs Act more harsher by amending it;