

about 732 lakh persons in India were users of alcohol and drugs. of these 87 lakh used Cannabis, 20 lakh used opiates and 625 lakh were users of Alcohol. However, the sample size being small (40,697 males within the age group of 12-60 years both in rural and urban areas) *vis-a-vis* the country's population, the estimates can at best be taken as indicative only. Thereafter, no National Survey on drug abuse has been conducted.

In 2007, the Ministry had requested National Sample Survey office (NSSO) to conduct a nationwide survey on extent, pattern and trend of alcohol and drug abuse. Accordingly, the NSSO has conducted a pilot survey in the cities of Amritsar, Imphal and Mumbai in March-April 2010. The report of the Pilot Survey was received from NSSO on 05.01.2011. On examination of the report of the Pilot Survey, certain issues relating to under estimation, non-coverage of certain age groups etc. were raised and a more comprehensive and extended pilot survey was suggested. The National Statistical Commission (NSC) in its meeting held on 06.09.2013 has observed that no purpose would be served by conducting the proposed Advanced Pilot Survey and suggested that the methodology and the sampling design may be looked afresh. Thereafter, a Working Group was constituted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, with NSSO as nodal organization to devise the modalities of advanced pilot survey in the States of Punjab and Manipur. The report of the Working Group has been received. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has now informed that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment can conduct the survey through the help of NGOs on the pattern of earlier pilot survey done in the year 2010. The NSSO would provide all the necessary support if required. The Ministry is in the process of finalizing an agency for conducting the National Survey.

New scheme to tackle beggary

1400. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated a new scheme to provide shelter, health care and skill development training to tackle beggary;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with salient features of the scheme; and
- (c) the time by which the new scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) to (c) The States are responsible for taking necessary preventive and rehabilitative steps. As per available information, 20 States and 2 Union Territories have either enacted their own Anti-Beggary Legislation

or adopted legislations enacted by other States/UTs. Presently, there is no scheme of the Central Government on Beggary. National Consultation Meetings were held with the representatives of Central/State Governments, NGOs, Institutes and Individual Experts in the field of Beggary to discuss the issues related to Beggary. In these meetings, it was *inter-alia*, recommended to explore the feasibility of framing a Central Scheme for rehabilitation of Beggars. Accordingly, a Scheme for Protection, Care and Rehabilitation of Destitutes is under formulation which has, *inter-alia*, provision for providing skill development training to the able bodied destitutes.

Complaints registered by scheduled sections

1401. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many complaints have been registered by scheduled sections of the population about physical attack on them, casting insulting comments and denial of their rights by other sections, during the last two years;

(b) what action was taken thereon;

(c) whether they have raised similar complaints against those in authority;

(d) cases mentioned in (a) and (c) whether anybody has lost his/her life or forced to commit suicide in protest; and

(e) if so, how many people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) and (b) Chapter II of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, as amended by Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2015, relates to offences of atrocities against members of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) by persons not belonging to SCs and STs. Section 3 of the Act specifically describes offences of the nature mentioned in part(a) of the question and prescribes punishment thereof.

Since 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Scheduled (List-II) to the Constitution of India, the responsibility for implementation of the PoA Act also lies primarily with State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. At the Central level, as per Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, *inter-alia*, the subject matter of criminal offences under the PoA Act, is allocated to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), and the data in regard to cases under the Act is generated and provided by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), MHA,