

Implementation Plan (APIP) (h) improving Supplementary Nutrition Programme including cost revision (i) provision for construction and improvement of buildings of Anganwadi centres (ii) Training and use of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) (k) to put ICDS in a mission mode etc. and (l) revision of financial norms of various components etc.

(d) and (e) Improvement of maternal nutrition during pregnancy and lactation is the focal point of restructured ICDS. K- Immunisation is one of the six-services provided under the ICDS Scheme. Fortification of food items including salt is one of the priorities of the Government for Integrated Child Development Services, Mid-day Meal and Public Distribution System.

Drugs and substance abuse among children

314. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the increasing drugs, and substance abuse among children in the country, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has conducted any study on drugs and substance abuse among children in the country and if so, the details and the findings thereof; and

(c) whether Government has established age-appropriate drugs treatment centres for such children and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) No authentic data is available to indicate increasing drug and substance use among children in the country.

(b) National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) set up a Working Group in July 2011 for "Substance Abuse and Drug Addiction among Children". Based on the recommendation of the Working Group, the study was commissioned by NCPCR titled "Assessment of pattern, profile and correlates of substance use among children in India", conducted through the National Dependent Treatment Centre (NDTC), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi in the year 2012-13, covering 135 sites across 27 States/2 UTs with a sample size of 4024 substance using children. The objective of the study was to collect information on pattern of substance use and profile of children using substances; and to collect information on family, peer, stress, psychological, physical health and legal aspects associated with substance use among

children. Some major findings of the study are as that more than 50% children living on the streets reported bad or very bad relationship or no relationship with the family; Tobacco and alcohol were the most common substances used by children, followed by cannabis and inhalants, pharmaceutical opioids, sedatives, heroin and opium and the percentage of inhalant users (lifetime, last one year and last one month) was higher in the children living on the street than in children living at home.

(c) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment implements Central Sector Scheme of Assistance for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse under which financial assistance is provided to eligible Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Panchayati Raj Institutions, Urban Local Bodies etc. for running Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCA's) to provide composite/integrated services for the rehabilitation of addicts including child drug users.

Exemption of fees for competitive exams for women

†315. SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that women don't fill forms of various Central and State level competitive exams owing to the fees charged therefor; and

(b) whether Government is contemplating to exempt women from paying fees for all types of competitive exams?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) and (b) Department of Personnel & Training, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions has informed that in order to encourage women to join Government service, women candidates have been exempted from payment of fees for competitive examinations by conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Ministries/Departments along with its Central Autonomous Bodies under them.

Participation of women workforce

316. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent survey by Pro-Eves, a gender diversity consulting firm has

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.