

Data regarding the Old Age Homes run by the Communities is not maintained Centrally.

Menace of drug abuse among children

906. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has prepared a National Plan to curb drug, alcohol and substance abuse among children as directed by the Supreme Court, recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the fresh steps taken by Government to check the widespread menace of drug abuse among children, particularly adolescents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) to (d) The Supreme Court in its judgement dated 14.12.2016 in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 906 of 2014 has given the following directions:—

- (i) Complete a National Survey and generate a national database within a period of six months;
- (ii) Formulate and adopt a comprehensive national plan within four months, which will among other things also address the areas of immediate concern noted earlier; and
- (iii) Adopt specific content in the school curriculum under the aegis of New Education Policy (NEP)

The Government has taken the following measures:—

The Ministry has, in the month of August, 2016, assigned the work of conducting the National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India to National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC), AIIMS, New Delhi to be completed by 2018.

The Ministry has formulated a National Policy for Drug Demand Reduction which at present, has been referred to a Group of Ministers headed by the Minister of Home Affairs.

The Ministry has issued an advisory to all States and Union Territories on 11.8.2016 for taking coordinated action to address the problem of drug abuse which, *inter-alia*, includes prevention of substance abuse among children in the country such as:—

- (a) Conducting Sensitization and Preventive education programmes in schools and colleges throughout the year.
- (b) Establishing separate and specialized de-addiction treatment centres/facilities for drug dependent children, especially in Government Hospitals/Medical colleges.
- (c) Providing treatment facilities for those in the Juvenile Justice Systems including Juvenile Homes and Children Homes.
- (d) Providing appropriate facilities for children including street children.
- (e) Creating awareness generation through Youth organizations like Nehru Yuva Kendra, NSS and through print, electronic and social media.

In addition, the Ministry implements a "Central Sector Scheme of Assistance for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse" which provides financial assistance to eligible Non-Governmental Organizations, Panchayati Raj Institution, Urban Local Bodies, etc. for running Integrated Rehabilitation Centres of Addicts to provide composite/integrated services for the rehabilitation of addicts including child users.

National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), an autonomous Institute under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, in association with collaborating agencies, has been conducting awareness and capacity building programmes in schools, colleges, universities and community on ill effects of alcoholism and substance (drug) abuse as a measure of preventive step. The details of the programmes being organized by the NISD during the current financial year is given in the Statement (*See below*).

Ministry of Women and Child Development have informed that the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act) has come into effect from 15.01.2016 repealing the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000. In the said Act, a separate chapter has been added in which stringent penalty has been imposed on whoever gives intoxicating liquor or narcotic drug or psychotropic substance to a child. Section 77 and 78 of the JJ Act, 2015 read as follows:—

Section 77- *Whoever gives, or causes to be given, to any child any intoxicating liquor or any narcotic drug or tobacco products or psychotropic substance, except on the order of a duly qualified medical practitioner, shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to a fine which may extend up to one lakh rupees.*

Section 78- *Whoever uses a child, for vending, peddling, carrying, supplying or smuggling any intoxicating liquor, narcotic drug or psychotropic substance, shall be liable for rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to a fine up to one lakh rupees.*

With regard to specific content in the school curriculum under the aegis of New Education Policy (NEP), Department of Higher Education has informed that the Draft New Education Policy is under formulation. At the time of finalization of the New Education Policy, the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court relating to adoption of specific contents in school curriculum on drugs and alcoholism under the NEP will be considered by them.

Statement

Details of the programmes being organised by NSID during the current financial year

| Sl. No. | Programme | No. of Programmes | No. of Beneficiaries (approx.) |
|---------|---|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | Awareness/Sensitization Programme for School/ College/ University Students & NSS Volunteers | 152 | 11400 |
| 2. | Capacity Building Programme for School Teachers on Drug Abuse Prevention | 26 | 820 |
| 3. | Capacity Building Programme for functionaries of drug de-addiction centres supported by the Ministry which, <i>inter alia</i> , includes spreading awareness about ill effects of drug abuse in their community | 20 | 520 |
| TOTAL | | 198 | 12740 |

Social and educational condition of poor classes

†907. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any specific information regarding the social and educational condition of poor classes; and

(b) whether Government has any plan to conduct a survey regarding the social and educational condition of the poor classes so that specific information about them can be received just like the Sachar Committee which was appointed to obtain specific information about the Muslim community?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.