

**Drug abuse in rural areas**

2057. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a survey conducted by Government, it was revealed that drug abuse is higher in the rural areas;

(b) whether according to the survey there was a low involvement level, bad treatment and under utilization of the existing services;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said survey has suggested programmes for the vulnerable groups to monitor the progress; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir. However, the findings of the National Survey on the Extent, Pattern and Trends of Drug Abuse in India indicate substantial abuse of alcohol, cannabis and opiates (excluding heroin, which has low prevalence) in the rural areas.

(b) No, Sir. The report indicates that only very few of the users of drugs contemplated treatment for drug use. In fact, an estimated 3 lakh drug abusers seek treatment annually in the 379 Treatment-Cum-Rehabilitation Centre functioning in the country that are supported financially by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment under the Scheme of Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Welfare of handicapped persons in Chhattisgarh**

†2058. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed any experimental project in Chhattisgarh for the welfare of handicapped persons with the collaboration of the Rehabilitation Council of India; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount allocated for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Do not arise.

### **Issuing of Caste Certificate to SCs**

†2059. SHRI NARAYAN SINGH KESRI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any simplified alternative for Issuing of 'Caste Certificate' to the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes are asked to furnish domicile certificate for the last 50 years while issuing 'Income Certificate' to them;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government are aware that a large number of students are deprived of all Government's facilities due to complexities involved in issuing of 'Caste Certificate'?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

(b) and (c) Under Article 341 of the Constitution, Presidential Orders specifying the Scheduled Castes in relation to the States/Union Territories have been issued from time to time. The first Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 was issued on 10.08.1950. Where a person claims to belong to a Scheduled Castes by birth *inter-alia* it should be verified that he was permanent resident of the State/Union Territory on the date of notification of the Presidential Order applicable in his case. The verification and issue of caste certificate for such purpose is the responsibility of the concerned State/Union Territory Administration.

(d) No such report has come to the notice of the Government.

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