

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

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.