

**Socio-economic study enabling reservation for EWS**

555. SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any socio-economic study for enabling ten per cent reservation for Economic Weaker Sections (EWS) has been conducted;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of number of targeted beneficiaries under the Act, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) and (b) The Government set up a Commission in 2005 namely Sinho Commission to suggest necessary constitutional, legal and administrative measures in the context of identification, welfare measures and quantum of reservation for the Economically Backward Classes (EBCs). The Commission submitted its report in 2010 which analyzed the socio-economic indicators of EBCs based on NSSO Report (2004-05).

(c) Target beneficiaries under the Act are the persons who are not covered under the existing schemes for reservations for the SCs, STs and OBCs and whose family has gross annual income below ₹ 8.00 lakh are to be identified as EWSs for the benefits of this reservation and subject to exclusion of the persons whose family own and possess the following:—

- (i) 5 acres of Agricultural Land and above;
- (ii) Residential flat of 1000 sq. ft. and above;
- (iii) Residential plot of 100 sq. yards and above in notified municipalities; and
- (iv) Residential plot of 200 sq. yards and above in areas other than the notified municipalities.

**Drug de-addiction camps and helpline**

556. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether de-addiction camps are being organised regularly by the Ministry;
- (b) if so, the number of beneficiaries from such camps, with a particular reference to Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) the status of the National toll free drug de-addiction helpline; and

(d) the number of victims in the country during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) and (b) This Ministry implements a “Central Sector Scheme of Assistance for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse”. The scheme has the provision of financial assistance to Non Governmental Organisations, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Urban Local Bodies etc. for, *inter alia*, running and maintenance of Integrated Rehabilitation Centre for Addicts (IRCA) and to provide composite/integrated services for the rehabilitation of the addicts. These IRCA are responsible for Preventive Education and Awareness Generation programmes in their neighbourhood, educational institutions, workplace and slums with the purpose of sensitizing the community about the impact of addiction and the need to take professional help for treatment. Total number of beneficiaries under the scheme during the last year (2017-18) were 1,00,737 out of them 2952 beneficiaries were of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) This Ministry has set up a National Toll Free Drug de-addiction Helpline No. 1800-11-0031 w.e.f. 7th January, 2015 to help the victims of drug abuse, their family and society at large. The helpline has become operational 24x7 since March, 2017. A total number of 65282 calls related to drug abuse have been received till December, 2018.

(d) Data in this regard is not maintained Centrally. However, as per the last survey on the extent, pattern and trend of drug abuse was sponsored by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the United Nations office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the year 2000-2001 and its report was published in 2004. It was estimated that 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.

No National survey on drug abuse was conducted. However, 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), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. The survey will provide national and State-level estimates of proportion and absolute number of people who use various substances and people who are suffering from substance use disorders.