GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*34
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.02.2021

STEPS TO TACKLE DRUG-ADDICTION AMONG STREET CHILDREN

*34. SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the problem of street children being addicted to drugs;
(b) whether Government has undertaken any steps to tackle this issue;
(c) if so, the details thereof, if not the reasons therefor;
(d) whether Government plans to set up specialized de-addiction centres and/or shelter homes for the same;
(e) if so, the details thereof, if not the reasons therefor;
(f) whether Government is making efforts to target the origin of drugs and eliminate it s easy availability; and
(g) if so, the details thereof, if not the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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Statement referred to in reply to part (a) to (g) of the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No.*34 for answer on 04.02.2021 raised by Shri Dinesh Trivedi regarding "Steps to tackle drug-addiction among street children".

(a): As per the findings of National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India, conducted by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MSJE) through National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC) of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, the estimated proportion and number of children, who are 'users' (not 'addicted' to) of various substances in India (at the National level) is **Annexed**. However, no separate data is available regarding street children addicted to Drugs.

(b) to (e): Major steps taken by the Government to tackle the issue are as under:

(i) As per Section 2 (14) (ix) of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act), a child who is found vulnerable and is likely to be inducted into drug abuse or trafficking is included as a child in need of care and protection. The Act mandates safety net of statutory service delivery along with Institutional and non-Institutional care for the children in need of care and protection.

(ii) The Ministry of Women and Child Development implements a centrally sponsored Child Protection Services (CPS) Scheme to support children in difficult circumstances including children who are victims of substance abuse. The primary responsibility of execution of the Act and implementation of the scheme lies with the State Governments/UT Administration.

(iii) Under National Action plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR), focus is placed on establishing and assisting de-addiction centres in closed settings such as Juvenile Homes and for special groups such as children in need of care and protection, through State Government.

(iv) Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) has been launched in 272 identified vulnerable districts with the aim to create awareness about ill effects of substance abuse among the youth, with special focus on higher education institutes, university campuses and schools and reaching out to the community. The concerned States/ UTs have been directed to launch Abhiyaan in their States/UTs.

(v) Navchetna Modules have been developed to be followed in the schools for generating awareness among the children, teachers and parents about ill effects of substance abuse under the scheme of NAPDDR.

(vi) Under Community Based Peer-Led Intervention (CPLI), focus is placed on vulnerable, at risk children and adolescents in the community. Under the project, children aged between 10 to 18 years, are enrolled as peer educators who would in turn engage children in the community in awareness generation and life skill development activities.

(vii) The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Care and Protection of Children in Street Situations.

(f) & (g): Sale and distribution of drugs are regulated under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules made thereunder. As per Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, all narcotic drugs listed in Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 are required to be sold by retail under the prescription of a Registered Medical practitioner (RMP). State Licensing Authorities are empowered to take action against any violation of the conditions of license.

To break the drug trafficking networks, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) under Ministry of Home Affairs identify the repeat offenders and efforts to detain the repeat offenders under Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988 are being vigorously perused by NCB.

Under Section 78 of the JJ Act, 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.

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Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No.*34 for answer on 04.02.2021 raised by Shri Dinesh Trivedi regarding "Steps to tackle drug-addiction among street children".

Estimated numbers of children, who are 'users' (not 'addicted' to) of various substances in India (at the National level).

Substance	Children
	Estimated no. of Users
Alcohol	30,00,000
Cannabis	20,00,000
Opioids	40,00,000
Sedatives	20,00,000
Inhalants	30,00,000
Cocaine	2,00,000
ATS	4,00,000
Hallucinogens	2,00,000