

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1899
ANSWERED ON - 04/08/2021

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION AMONG CHILDREN

1899. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government has formulated any national policy to check alcohol and drug addiction among children as per the direction of the Supreme Court;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the fresh steps taken by Government to tackle the danger of drug addiction among children, especially among adolescents?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI A. NARAYANASWAMY)

(a) to (d) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment implements the scheme of National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR), under which financial assistance is provided to NGOs/VOs for running and maintenance of Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCA's), Community based peer Led Intervention (CPLI) for early Drug Use Prevention among Adolescents and Outreach and Drop In Centres (ODIC) and Addiction treatment facilities (ATFs) in Government Hospitals'.

The Ministry has launched Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) in 272 identified vulnerable districts with an 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 into the community. One of main focus areas is to spread awareness in the school-going children.

Under Community Based Peer-Led Intervention (CPLI) initiative, focus has been placed on vulnerable and 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 skills activities. A total of 60 CPLI Centres has been set up with financial support by the Ministry.

The Outreach and Drop In Centres (ODICs) provide safe and secure drop-in space for substance users in the community. These centres have the provision of screening, assessment and counseling and thereafter provide referral and linkage to treatment and rehabilitation services for substance dependents.

Apart from this, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, has many provisions for protection of the vulnerable children with Institutional and non-Institutional care for the children in need of care and protection. The Act also provides strict penalties for those who causes children to take to drugs and psychotropic substances.
