

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 869**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 14TH DECEMBER, 2022/ AGRAHAYANA 23, 1944
(SAKA)**

DRUG TRAFFICKING

869 SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the alarming rate of drug trafficking in the country and increasing use of drugs among youngsters;**
- (b) whether Government has any effective strategy to check the cross-border drug trafficking in the country;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether Government has any plan to create awareness campaign among students and youth against drug abuse; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)**

(a): There is no study/data to indicate increase in rate of drug trafficking in the country, however the number of drug users has gone up as indicated by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment survey 2019 vis-à-vis 2004.

(b) to (e): The Government of India has adopted a two pronged strategy to check drug trafficking and create awareness against drug abuse :-

- (i) Drugs supply reduction initiatives.**
- (ii) Drugs demand reduction initiatives.**

(A) Some of the drugs supply reduction initiatives taken by the Government are as detailed below:-

- (i) Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD)- The Government has introduced the NCORD mechanism in 2016 to have effective coordination of actions among various Ministries, Departments, Central and States law enforcement agencies dealing with narcotics. The mechanism was restructured in 2019 into a 4 tier structure as detailed under:-**

- Apex Level Committee (headed by Union Home Secretary)**
- Executive Level Committee (headed by Special Secretary (IS), MHA).**
- State Level Committee (headed by Chief Secretary of the concerned State).**
- District Level Committee (Headed by District Magistrate)**

In the current year, the NCORD mechanism has been further strengthened by addition of new members at different levels to make it more effective and comprehensive.

- (ii) A Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) was constituted vide MHA's order dated 19 July 2019 consisting of Central and State Agencies to monitor investigations in case of large seizure of drugs.**
- (iii) A special Task Force on Dark net and Crypto currency has been constituted to monitor suspicious transactions related to drugs on Darknet.**
- (iv) To prevent smuggling along border areas various border guarding forces like BSF, SSB and Assam Rifles have been empowered under Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substance (NDPS) Act, 1985 to make interdiction of drugs.**
- (v) To mitigate the problem of drug trafficking through maritime route, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has been empowered under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act for making interdiction of narcotic drugs at sea.**
- (vi) Since illicit trafficking of narcotics drugs and its abuse is a trans-national problem, Govt. of India has entered into bilateral agreements with 27 countries, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with 15 countries and 02 Agreements on Security**

Cooperation for preventing illicit trafficking in narcotics drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals.

(B) Some of the initiatives taken by the Government for Drugs demand reduction are as follow :-

- (i) National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) is an umbrella scheme of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJ&E) under which financial assistance is provided to State Governments/ Union Territory (UT) Administrations for Preventive Education and Awareness Generation, Capacity Building, Skill development, vocational training and livelihood support to ex-drug addicts, Programmes for Drug Demand Reduction by States/UTs etc. and Non-Governmental Organizations/ Voluntary Organizations for running and maintenance of Integrated Rehabilitation Centers for Addicts (IRCAs), Community based Peer Led Interventions (CPLI) for early Drug Use Prevention among Adolescents Outreach and Drop In Centers (ODIC) and Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) in Government Hospitals.**

- (ii) Launching of Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) in 372 most vulnerable districts with a massive community outreach programme, involving more than 8000 youth volunteers.**

- (iii) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is also running a National Toll Free Helpline 14446 to provide tele-counseling to drug users and refer them to the nearest de-addiction center.**

- (iv) NCB has also launched awareness campaigns through various social media platforms by way of Audio Video messages of eminent personalities from the field of Politics, Bureaucracy, Sports, Films, Music etc. and also through Telecom service providers, FM radios, Television Channels, etc.**
