

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:424

ANSWERED ON:24.08.2006

DRUG ABUSE

Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan;Singh Shri Sugrib

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

- (a) whether drug abuse in the country especially amongst youth is increasing at alarming rate;
- (b) if so, the fact thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any survey in this regard recently to find out the causes of this drug menace;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details of the financial assistance provided to the Non-Governmental Organisations working in this field during each of the last three years; and
- (f) the corrective steps taken or being taken by the Government to check the drug abuse?

Answer

MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MEIRA KUMAR)

(a) to (f) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS [a] to [f] OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 424 FOR 24.8.2006 RAISED BY SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY AND SHRI SUGRIB SINGH REGARDING 'DRUG ABUSE'

(a) and (b) There is no authentic data to conclusively indicate that drug abuse in the country especially amongst the youth is increasing at alarming rate.

(c) and (d): Yes Sir. According to the National Survey on the Extent, Pattern and Trends of Drug Abuse in India, jointly conducted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the common reasons for drug use are curiosity, experimentation, being in the company of drug users and to experience the effects.

(e) Rs. 22.64 crores, Rs. 25.50 crores and Rs. 22.35 crores were released to Non-Governmental Organisations working in the field of drug abuse during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively.

(f) In addition to strict surveillance and preventive steps taken by the enforcement agencies, this Ministry, in collaboration with the Non-Governmental Organisations, takes steps to create awareness and educate people about ill effects of drug abuse on the individual, the family and the society at large. Efforts are also made to increase community participation and public cooperation in the reduction of demand for dependence producing substances.