

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:235  
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2005  
DRUG ADDICTION AMONG CHILDREN  
Paswan Shri Virchandra

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

- (a) Whether the Government is aware that 24 percent children between the age of 12-18 years are drug addict;
- (b) If so, the corrective measures taken by the Union Government to control this serious situation;
- (c) Whether the Government has received complaints against NGOs/VOs for misutilisation of funds provided to them for drug abuse prevention during 2005 till date;
- (d) If so details thereof and the action taken against the erring NGOs/VOs; and
- (e) The mechanism available with the Government to ensure proper utilization of funds released to NGOs/VOs ?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement as referred in parts (a) to (e) Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 235 for 18-12-2005 regarding Drug Addiction Among Children raised By Shri Virchandra Paswan

(a) As per the National Survey on Extent, Pattern and Trends of Drug abuse in India conducted by the Government of India in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime the current prevalence rates in a sample size of 8587 children within the age group of 12-18 years was as follows:

Alcohol 21.4% Cannabis 3.0% Opiates 0.1%

Prevalence refers to `used within the last one month`. It could even mean that the drug was used only once in the month or more than once in the month. It does not mean that the `current users` are addicts. The Survey itself states as a general proposition for all ages that not all of the current users are dependent users and between 17% and 26% of current users i.e between 17-26% of 24% can be classified as dependent users. Therefore, around 1% can be considered as dependent users of alcohol or drugs. While using these figures it should also be noted that the sample size of 8587 is too small for a reliable extrapolation for all children in the age group of 12-18, in the country.

(b) The Government is implementing the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse to deal with the problem of drug abuse/addiction for the victims of substance abuse as part of its drug demand reduction programme. The Government has taken initiatives that include imparting knowledge on drugs to the students through inclusion of appropriate material in the school curriculum and Training of Teachers (TOT) module for the sensitization of the teachers and parents in school environment with the participation of NGOs, so that the number of youth succumbing to the drug addiction get reduced. The Government also recognizes that the students at the secondary/higher secondary level are particularly vulnerable and slipping into the habit of drug abusing behaviour due to stress, peer influence and hormonal changes etc. In addition to the above, Government has taken steps to curb sale of drugs in the vicinity of any school/educational institution by imposing higher than the minimum punishment in such offences as per Section 32B of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. Government supports 52 counselling Centres and 377 De-addiction Centres all over the country for carrying out awareness building, counseling, treatment and rehabilitation of persons who are victims of substance abuse and alcoholism in varied settings such as community, workplaces, educational institutions etc.

(c) Yes Sir. Very few complaints have been received.

(d) A list is enclosed.

(e) The performance of NGO is reviewed on half-yearly basis and officers authorized by Central and State Government conduct periodical inspections. Besides, detailed report, which includes audited accounts, utilization certificates, annual reports, list of

beneficiaries, list of staff etc are also obtained by the Ministry. Installments of grant-in-aid are released after evaluation of their performance and satisfactory inspection reports.

LIST AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART [d] OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.235 FOR 8.12.2005 REGARDING `DRUG ADDICTION AMONG CHILDREN` RAISED BY SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN & SHRIMATI PURANDESWARI