

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3614

ANSWERED ON:14.12.2012

HARMFUL USE OF ALCOHOL DRUGS

Adityanath Shri Yogi;Choudhry Smt. Shruti;Singla Shri Vijay Inder

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to harmful/improper use of alcohol and drugs with sedative, anxiolytic, analgesic or stimulant properties in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted/proposed any study/survey in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the action plan drawn by the Government to address the issue?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) & (b): Yes. The data from Government treatment centres as maintained by the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC), AIIMS, Ghaziabad (U.P.) through its Drug Abuse Monitoring System (DAMS) reveal that during the last five years 2007-2011, out of 41910 new treatment seekers, 2731 (6.5%) were abusers of sedatives / anxiolytics and an additional about 0.5% people were abusing stimulants.

(c) to (e): The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, which is the nodal Ministry for all matters relating to "Alcoholism and substance (drug) abuse and rehabilitation of addicts/families" as per the Government of India (Allocation of Business Rules), 1961, has informed that the had conducted a national survey on drug abuse in the country in the year 2000-2001 in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The Report was published in 2004 wherein it was estimated that about 732 lakh persons in India were users of alcohol and drugs. However, the sample size being small (40,697 males only) vis-a-vis the country's population, the estimates can at best be taken as indicative only. That Ministry has requested the NSSO to carry out an advanced pilot survey in 3 States viz. Punjab, Maharashtra and Manipur to test the efficacy of the sampling design and survey instruments for National Survey. That Ministry has informed that detailed national survey to gauge the extent, pattern and trends of drug abuse in the country will be taken up after reviewing the report of the advanced pilot survey in these States.