

## Reforming Social Deviants

10.83 Recognizing that social deviants are often the victims of circumstances and situational compulsions, reform and rehabilitation in a humane manner rather than through a punitive environment has been given priority with a view to transforming today's social deviants into tomorrow's responsible citizens. The Social Defence Bureau of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment undertakes programmes for the benefit of victims of substance abuse, children in need of care and protection, welfare of the aged etc.

10.84 Rigorous efforts are being made to tackle the problem of drug demand reduction through an integrated and comprehensive community based approach to curb the growing problem of alcoholism and drug abuse in the country. This is being strengthened and expanded to reach uncovered rural areas and the northeast. High-risk groups like street children, commercial sex workers etc. are also covered. For tackling the problem of alcohol and drug abuse, Rs.16.88 crore has so far been released (up to 14.1.2005) to

voluntary organizations for providing services to an anticipated number of 1.40 lakh substance abusers. 54 Counselling Centres and 364 Treatment cum Rehabilitation Centres are being supported under the scheme of Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse. The 'Programme of Juvenile Justice', supports services for 33,828 juvenile inmates in conflict with law in over 375 mandatory homes.

10.85 "1098" which is a toll free telephone number services 'Childline' which is a helpline for children in distress. A child in need or anyone on his behalf can call this number in 56 cities of India and seek emergency or other assistance by way of rescue from a situation of abuse, medical help, restoration to family, emotional support etc. 66 lakh calls have been received and attended to up to December 2004. Under the scheme of Integrated Programme for Street Children, 207 NGOs are being supported in running shelters, non formal education and vocational training programmes coupled with nutritional support and medical care in 22 States benefiting 1.99 lakh street children.