

## **Social defence sector**

10.82 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, and welfare of the aged. Rigorous efforts are being made to tackle the problem of drug demand through an integrated and comprehensive community-based approach to the growing problem of alcoholism and drug abuse in the country, especially in the uncovered rural areas and North East, and among high-risk groups like street children and commercial sex workers. 54 counseling centres and 364 treatment cum rehabilitation centres are being supported under the scheme of Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse. Under the 'Programme of Juvenile Justice', the cost of maintaining mandatory homes for the children

in conflict with the law, and for those in need of care and protection is shared between the Centre and the States. The programme presently supports services for 15,696 juvenile inmates in over 290 mandatory homes.

10.83 "1098" is a toll-free telephone number services 'Childline', which is a helpline for children in distress. A child in need or anyone on his/her 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, and emotional support. 85 lakh calls were received and attended to up to November 2005. Under the scheme of an Integrated Programme for Street Children, NGOs are being supported in running shelters, non-formal education and vocational training programmes coupled with nutritional support and medical care in 22 States.