

SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL: I have already answered that question by saying that Rs. 23 crores will be spent for launching it and some modifications would be required.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Since he has said that we are trying to work out the complete launching facilities in India so that we are not bogged up in negotiating with other countries, I would like to know by what time the complete facilities for launching would be available in our country.

SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL: While replying to some of the supplementaries I have tried to explain this aspect. We have already launched SLV-S. The next stage is that of launching ASLV and the third stage is that of PSLV. Then we go to the stage of launching GSLV—Geostationary Satellite Launch Vehicle. A PSLV will be available in the year 1988-89 and we expect that the GSLV launch facility may become available to us in the first part of '90s. Maybe, this may be available to us in 1991-92.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: I would like to ask the Minister, since he has said that it is expected that the programme will be on schedule, in case it is not on schedule—1986 has proved very bad for scientists all over the World; I hope, as he has expected, it will not be so with 1987—just in case it is otherwise, what the programmes are that are likely to be affected in science, in development and in information and communications.

SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL: Satellite is being used for long distance communication, for TV broadcast or meteorological purposes and for radio relays also. We expect that this will not happen. But then, what is crucial in this case is the launching facility itself. The satellite is available. The satellite is ready to be launched. But the launching facility has to be available. And as the position stands today, we are using the launching facility from Europe. There would be

other launching facilities also later on. But as time passes and as eventualities occur, we shall have to adjust to the eventualities and try to find out how best we will be able to keep on providing these facilities to our people. We feel that we will be able to do it. Reasonably we feel sure that we will be able to do it.

Arrest of school girls carrying smack

¹³104. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPE-
NDRA: Will the Minister of HOME
AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two school girls of Delhi were caught on 13th June, 1986 carrying smack when they went to see an Afghan under-trial in Tihar Jail;

(b) whether investigations have been made against these girls and whether they were connected with some gang of persons engaged in trafficking of drugs; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the measures being taken to curb trafficking in drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM),
(a) No, Sir. However, a girl named Serni Devi, aged about 13/19 years (not a school girl) carrying 300 Mgs. smack was arrested on 12-6-86 when she was going to see an Afghan under-trial in Tihar Jail.

(b) and (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(h) A case FIR No. 285 u/s 21/61/05 N'DPS Act, 1985 was registered at PS Janakpuri, New Delhi and the accused has been arrested. Further investigation of the case is in progress.

(c) To combat the menace of trafficking in drugs and narcotics in Delhi

the following steps are being undertaken by Delhi Police:—

(1) Intelligence system has been strengthened to detect the persons who indulge in drug trafficking.

(2) Close liaison is being maintained with the other enforcement agencies, specially in cases where inter-State or international trafficking is found or suspected. The traffickers/pedlars / smugglers are being interrogated to unearth the syndicates.

(3) Special watch is being maintained at the entry and exit point of the Union Territory of Delhi against such trafficking.

(4) Regular surprise checking of vehicles is organised to detect those involved in such a trade.

(5) Efforts have been made by Delhi Police through the police stations, Special staff and the anti-narcotics section of the Crime Branch of Delhi Police to apprehend the drug pedlars/traffickers and effect seizures. Delhi Police have launched a special drive under a new Act called the "The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1985 (61 of 1985)" which has come into force all over the country with effect from 14th November, 1985. Stringent punishment is provided for drug-trafficking offences under this new Act.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: The Minister has given a very goody-goody answer. This could be the answer ten years ago and it could be there for ten years hence -----

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are complimenting him.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: My specific question was whether the girls were connected with any organised gang. The arrest took place forty days ago and two days of interrogation should be enough. I wanted to know whether they were connected with a gang or it was an isolated case.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Only one girl was arrested; not two girls. And preliminary investigation does not establish that this girl was connected with any organised gang.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: In para 5 of his statement the Minister said that after the promulgation of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 the Delhi Police have taken a number of steps to apprehend these drug traffickers. I would like to know how many cases have been detected since November 1985 when the new Act came into force and how many people have been arrested.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: In year 1986, up to 21-7-86, there have been 1,553 cases. Till now, 2,339.581 kgs. of have been seized: 141.07 kgs. of opium, 776.762 kgs. of ganja, 56.836 kgs. of 'smack' heroin, 0.85 kg. of methaquinol have been seized. Sir, I do not have the figures of the number of persons who have been arrested under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. • I will collect the information and place it on the Table of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Jayanthi Natrajan, the new Member.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN: Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House to another aspect of trafficking in drugs, which is done in legitimate drugs. We have been only talking about the seizure of drugs and medicines like cocaine and heroin. But there is another aspect of drug trafficking, that is, trafficking in legitimate drugs. These drugs are sold in the drug stores under doctor's prescriptions for the use of genuine patients suffering from various diseases like amphetamine, barbiturates and morphine. Under the new Act, that is, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, which came into effect last November, all these drugs were brought under the Schedule of 71 drug* unauthorised Possession of which was supposed to be punishable with a minimum fine of one

lakh rupees and imprisonment for ten years. But the newspaper reports to protest from the various chemists who are stocking these medicine?, on the ground that the stringent punishment stipulated in the Act is a potential source of corruption and harassment from the enforcement agencies, the Government is proposing to exempt these major psychotropic substances from the purview of this Act

My subsequent question is this: It has also been reported that a Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Finance has written to the President of the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers that the Government intends to correct the situation and the Drugs and Cosmetics Act is being amended. Naturally, when the new Act is enforced and if these drugs are going to be exempted from the purview of this Act, what are the safeguards that the Government is going to provide to see that illegal sale of these drugs in the drug stores all over the country do not take place?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, to the best of my information, there is no proposal to exempt any drugs from the Schedule of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act of 1985. If the honourable Member could give me the names of specific drugs about which she has learnt that there is a proposal to exempt them from the Schedule, I will have it examined. But, Sir, to the best of my information, the Schedule is there to the Act and we do not propose to exempt any drug from that Act.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Jagdambi Prasad Yadav.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : अध्यक्ष

जो, मैं सरकार से सिर्फ यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि मादक द्रव्यों का व्यवहार दिल्ली के कालेजों में बहुत हो प्रचलित हो गया है और सभी प्रकार के मादक द्रव्यों का दिल्ली केन्द्र हो गया है। इसके लिए कानून आप भी हैं बनाएँ, लेकिन मैं जानना चाहता हूँ

कि कालेजों में जो मादक द्रव्यों और दूधों का जो व्यवहार हो रहा है इसे रोकने में सरकार कहीं तक सफल हो रही है। जो दिल्ली और इनका केन्द्र बिन्दु हो रहा है और बिजनेस का अड़्डा बन गया है। उसको रोकने के लिए आपने कौन कौन से कदम उठाए

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I am grateful to the honourable Member for raising this point. I think this is a very serious problem. Our information is that drug trafficking and drug-use are prevalent to a great degree in colleges, not only in Delhi but also in the other urban centres and, therefore, one of the reasons why we proposed to have the Narcotic drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, is to quell this use and the trafficking in drugs. We are taking a number of steps. So far as Delhi is concerned, the intelligence system is being strengthened to detect the persons who indulge in drug trafficking. Close liaison is being maintained with the other enforcement agencies. Traffic-kers, peddlers, and smugglers are interrogated to unearth the syndicates. Special watch is being maintained at the entry and exit points of the Union territory of Delhi against such trafficking. Regular surprise checking of vehicles is organised. Efforts are being made by the Delhi Police through its police stations and the Special Staff in the Anti-Narcotics Section of the Crime Branch of the Delhi Police to apprehend the drug peddler* and traffickers and effect seizures. And the figures I gave a little while earlier about the amount of drugs seized in 1986, up to 21-7-86, show that our drive has yielded results. We will continue to enforce this Act very, very strictly, and particularly take severe action against those who sell drugs to school children and college students. We are also considering setting up special courts for narcotic offences.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Anand Sharma.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, the Government deserves to be complimented for enacting the Narcotics Act and also for the vigorous drive against drug peddlers. The results are quite clear to all of us. But in spite of the recent hauls in the farm houses in Delhi, which is positive sign, this menace which was earlier confined to the urban areas and cities like Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta, is fast spreading to the rural areas, in slums, in resettlement colonies and a large number of the youth in the poor families are afflicted. Normally the administrations of Union Territories and State Governments are also expected to take steps to check it and to educate people about it. My specific question, Sir, is whether the response of the Union Territories and the Administration of various States is adequate to meet the challenge. What steps are proposed to be undertaken for an intensive campaign, to educate the youth about the evil effects of drugs and to treat the drug addicts? Some centres have been set up to treat the drug addicts. But they are not adequate. The number of such addicts is much more. What does the Government propose to do in this regard?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the Act came into force on 14-11-85. It has been in operation for about 8 months. In a matter like this, we can never say that we are satisfied with the response. I think this vigil should be there continuously. We should intensify our drive. Sir, as far as the Central Government response is concerned, hon. Members know that we have set up the Narcotics Bureau which is headed by a very senior officer. The purpose of this Bureau is to intensify the drive against narcotic drugs. About the suggestion that there should be counselling centres and treatment centres for people who are addicted to drugs, I would certainly pass it on to the Min-

istry of Social Welfare. I am sure they will look into it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kadharsa.

SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Sir, the recent seizure of large scale narcotic drugs, 45 kg. of high grade heroin, 1000 kilos of charas on the Haryana-Delhi border, and Rs. 3 crores worth of narcotics, and one recent case involving one Ashoke—all this proves that India is fast becoming peddlers' paradise and Delhi is becoming the drug capital of India. Sir, no drug trafficking is possible without international connections and it is also connected with terrorist activities. So I would like to know whether it has come to the notice of the Government that any terrorist activities are involved in drug trafficking and, if so, what are those cases?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): It is very difficult to mention the precise cases. But, yes, in border areas where this anti-terrorist operation is on, there have been certain incidents in which the Mix-up of these two elements has been evidenced.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

Gorkha Homeland movement in Darjeeling area

•105. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of West Bengal has sought the help and cooperation of the Central Government for dealing with the Gorkha Homeland movement in Darjeeling area;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether the Central Government consider the Gorkha Homeland movement as a separatist movement aimed at destabilising the country?