

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 30th April, 1985/Vaisakha
10, 1907 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,
Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Inter-State racket of Hashish smugglers

*21. SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased
to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Inter-State
racket of smuggling in high quality hashish
has been unearthed by Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b)
Report received from Government of
Jammu and Kashmir indicates that during
the period 19-2-1985 to 18-3-1985, a total
quantity of 64,400 kgs. of hashish and
700 grams of opium was seized and thirteen
persons (including three women) of differ-
ent States were arrested by the State
Police.

SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY: Sir,
in view of the serious nature of the drug
menace in the country which, in the long
run, affects the entire health of the nation
and has the effect of dehumanisation
of the youth and the country itself, will
the Government take the necessary steps
to fight the evil on a war footing and erad-
icate this menace?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir,
we have already taken the steps. The steps
taken are that the customs and the border
security force keep a strict vigil on all
our borders, sea ports and airports to
check the smuggling of narcotic drugs into
our country; various enforcement agencies
of the State and the Central Government
are always alert to check the flow of
narcotic drugs into India; alert notices are

issued to all concerned enforcement agen-
cies regarding the likely or suspected move-
ment of narcotic drugs arriving into or
through India; effective co-ordination is
maintained between various enforcement
agencies for suppressing the illicit traffic in
drugs in India. Sir, there are so many
other steps also which have been taken.
Not only that, we are contemplating taking
some more steps and that includes a better
and more purposeful co-ordination among
the enforcement agencies, greater vigilance
on airports and sea-ports, additional mea-
sures of detection at entry and exit points
vulnerable to drug smuggling, detention
under COFEPOSA wherever justified.
These are some of the steps which have
been taken.

SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY: Sir,
this drug not only affects the physical
health of the youth and other people who
are addicted to it but it affects them
mentally also. Will the Government take
adequate steps to start de-addiction process
centres, which according to physicians and
psychiatrists are possible, and save those
who are addicted to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it a part of the
Finance Ministry's function? Yes. Mr.
Kadharsha.

SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Sir, I would
like to know whether it is a fact that the
United Nations Narcotics Control Board
at Vienna has indicted the Government
of India for its lapses and inefficiency in
handling the drug trafficking. Sir, the gol-
den triangle consisting of Thailand, Burma
and Laos has changed to the golden cres-
cent of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran and
India has become the take off station for
drug smuggling. There is close co-ordina-
tion between the Government of Singapore
and Malaysia where stringent punishment
is given for those who possess drugs. Hang-
ing is the severe punishment given in Singa-
pore and Malaysia. So, now the scenario
has changed from the golden triangle to
the golden crescent. Sir, I would like to
know from the hon. Minister whether he
contemplates providing stringent punish-
ment and enactment of severe laws in
India to curb this menace.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI. Sir, I want to tell the hon. Member that it is not correct to say that India is not in a position to control the trafficking in these drug substances. On the contrary, India is the only country which has been permitted to produce opium for export. This is the only country. So far as the steps that are to be taken including the laws, it is under the consideration of the Government to enact a comprehensive legislation to go into the entire gamut including punishment etc. to control the menace and the evils of these drugs.

SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Sir, smuggling is a monster which is ruining and demoralising our society and is paving the way to mafia raj. It has ruined our economy. According to highly-placed officials of the Reserve Bank of India, the estimated value by way of smuggling is to the tune of Rs. 60,000 crores, and among the 19 countries in the world, India ranks the highest. So, the smugglers are controlling thousands of crores of rupees and are adding everyday crores of rupees to black money. The total amount of smuggled goods in India is believed to be nearabout Rs. 5500 to 6000 crores. I would like to know how far the Government is able to control these contraband goods and what is the value of such illegal goods and what amount of smuggled goods is converted into black money by smugglers.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Because of intensive drive against smugglers, the hon. Members will be glad to know that we have seized smuggled goods worth about Rs. 45.01 crores in the first 3 months of 1985 against such goods worth Rs. 28.39 crores during the corresponding quarter of 1984. It will be a futile attempt on my part to quantify the amount of black money that is in circulation and even if I say that this much is the amount of black money, it will be said that my statement is not correct.

श्री अश्विनी कुमार : माननीय वित्त राज्य मंत्री जी ने जो उत्तर दिया है वह बहुत बुद्धिमानी से दिया है । 19-2-85

से 18-3-85 तक एक महीने का एक प्रान्त से स्मगलिंग के फीस दे कर यह बताने का प्रयास किया है कि यह ज्यादा नहीं है । लेकिन अगर इस का 12 महीने का एवरेज निकाला जाये तो लगभग एक टन हंशिस और अफीम देश में आ रहा है। आज कल आप ने बहुत दिनों से समाचार पत्रों में पढ़ा होगा कि दिल्ली के विश्व-विद्यालय के अंदर सर्वेक्षण कर के देखा गया है कि लगभग 50 प्रतिशत छात्र ऐसे हैं कि जो ड्रग के एडिक्ट होते जा रहे हैं । ऐसा सर्वेक्षण अखबारों में आया है और इस में कितनी सत्यता है इस को सरकार ही जान सकती है । मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि यह मिनेस जो बढ़ रहा है ड्रग्स के रूप में, और जैसा कि मेरे मित्र ने अभी कहा कि यह ग्रेडन क्रिसेंट है और उसके लिए हिन्दुस्तान इस माल को विदेशों को सप्लाई करने का एक सब से बड़ा केन्द्र हो रहा है तो इस सब को रोकने के लिए जो चीजें हो रही हैं और जैसा कि मंत्री जी ने अभी कहा कि हम ने यह बढ़ा दिया वह बढ़ा दिया और हम ने पिछले साल इतना पकड़ा है और इस साल इतना पकड़ा है, तो यह सब तो आइसबर्ग के ऊपर का ही हिस्सा है, लेकिन यह मिनेस बढ़ रहा है और इस को रोकने के लिए मंत्री जी अपनी मौलिक नीति में परिवर्तन करने के लिए कोई बात सोच रहे हैं या नहीं, यह मैं जानना चाहता हूं ।

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: It is not correct to say—I am answering the last part of the question of the hon. Member—that smuggling has increased. On the contrary, because of the detection and drive against smugglers, we are in a position to seize more goods, and because of the action taken by the Custom officials, it is our duty to compliment and congratulate the officials who have come up in a big way. The hon. Members may be well aware that we have increased the incentive or the reward, in their cases; earlier it was 10 per cent and now it is 20 per cent. We agree that it is a menace and that is why, the methaqualone that causes menace, was banned in 1984. Hon. Members may kindly take into consideration the fact that so far as the Central legislation is concerned, it is for opium and its byproducts. So far as charas, hashish,

bhang and ganja are concerned, it is a State subject. It is in the concurrent list. States are taking care of this and that is why, we are going to come up with a comprehensive legislation. This is under consideration.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: The hon Minister has said that cases of narcotic drug smuggling are being detected very well. He has said that the number of cases of detection has increased in the country. This is a good sign. But Sir, due to the strong measures adopted and punishment given in the neighbouring countries like Afghanistan, Thailand and Pakistan, the trade in narcotic drugs in these countries has naturally shifted to India as per reports of various sources. This is one of the reasons why more and more cases are being detected in India. But my question is not about detection. This is in regard to the second part. Smuggling operations are increasing in this country and the problem of illicit drugs has become a menace to the nation. This is eating into the vitality of the youth and the youth are becoming addicts. Under these circumstances, will the hon. Finance Minister recommend to the Minister of Law, to make the punishment adequate under the Indian Penal Code? The punishment should be made deterrent. This is the only way we can tackle the problem. Now, the punishment is very very negligible for the drug offences and for the smugglers of narcotic drugs. All offences are bailable and the persons who are caught are being bailed out immediately. The punishment, as I said, is very negligible, may be imprisonment for one year. This is only a token punishment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have exceeded two minutes. Hon Minister please

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Sir, my colleague has answered in detail about this. But I would like to dispel one impression which seems to have arisen on this question. It is not as if because of the strong measures and harsh punishment in the adjoining countries, smuggling has gone down in those countries and it has increased in India. In fact, even interantional studies have shown that India is not the main generator

of these narcotic drugs, these illicit drugs etc. but it is only a transit point. In fact, there is more generation in the East, Near-East and South-East and South-East countries. Our problem is, what is today only a transit point should not become the centre of activity. That is why, this is of great concern to us. This is one point I wanted to clarify, that India is not the main generator of these things, but it is only a transit point. We are aware of it. About legislation, I would like to assure the House that we are going into it and by the next Session we will bring comprehensive legislation to deal with all these things.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : मैं मंत्री जी का शुक्रगुजार हूँ कि उन्होंने इस सदन को आश्वासन दिया है कि एक अच्छा कानून इसके लिये वे लायेंगे। लेकिन मैं मंत्री जी का ध्यान इस के तीन पक्षों की ओर ले जाना चाहता हूँ। एक तो हृषिकेश अपने युवक और विद्यार्थी समाज में और यहां तक कि लड़कियों में भी ज़ोर-दार ढंग से व्यवहार में आने लगी है। दूसरा पक्ष है कि ऐज ए मेडिसिन, दवा के रूप में यह काम में आती है और एडिक्शन के रूप में इस का व्यवहार होता है। और तीसरा पक्ष है स्मगलिंग के लिए अपना देश एक ट्रांजिट सेंटर है। तो ट्रांजिट के लिए आप ने एक बात कही कि इस को आप सोर्स नहीं बनने देंगे और उस के लिए आप कानून बनायेंगे। लेकिन जब तक यह युवकों द्वारा इस्तेमाल में आ रही है, कालेजी और विश्वविद्यालयों में दवा के रूप में जो इस का इस्तेमाल होता है उस के लिए आप किस प्रकार का निदान करना चाहते हैं ताकि देश और समाज को इस से बचाया जा सके जिस से हमारे युवकों को नुकसान न हो, तो इस को रोकने के लिए आप क्या करना चाहते हैं ?

श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह : मान्यवर, एक चीज हम लोगों के ध्यान में आयी थी कि विद्यार्थियों के बीच में मेन्ट्रैक्स का इस्तेमाल हो रहा है तो उस के आयात और उत्पादन दोनों पर प्रतिबन्ध लगा दिया गया है। हम लोगों का अनुभव रहा है कि उसमें कमी हुई है। लेकिन इस विषय पर सोशल वेलफेयर विभाग ध्यान दे रहा है और हम

लोग गारंटे में उसके लिए जो भी प्रयास होगा, उसके लिए कदम उठावेंगे।

SHRI SHANKARRAO NARAYANRAO DESHMUKH: Will the hon. Minister give the names of persons who are detected in the smuggling, particularly from which part of the country do they come?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, so far as this case is concerned, on 19-2-1985 the quantity seized was 18.5 kgs. One woman courier has been arrested. Seven kgs. of charas and 700 gms of opium were seized from one Shri Krishan Lal and Shri Rajinder Pal residents of Jammu. Both were arrested. On 1-3-1985, 8 kgs. were seized. One Shri Dwarkanath of Rajouri along with Shri Madanlal, Kashmiri and Lasli Rai, was arrested. On 1-3-1985, the same day, 900 gms. have been seized and two lady couriers from Surat have been arrested. On 18-3-1985, 30 kgs. have been seized. One Shri Satvir Singh and the other Shri Dhoop Singh of Haryana were arrested. Some more particulars are there. If the hon. Member wants, he can write to me and I will furnish the names and other particulars to him.

Accidents in the Bhilai Steel Plant

*22. **SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what was the number of fatal accidents in the Bhilai Steel Plant during the year 1983-84; and

(b) whether any Committee has been set up to suggest ways and means to prevent accidents in the steel plants and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) During 1984, twelve employees of SAIL met with fatal accidents at Bhilai Steel Plant.

(b) There are Bipartite Committees consisting of representatives of management

and workers at apex and shop-floor levels to monitor the safety system. These committees are assigned the following responsibilities:—

(i) ensuring effective implementation of safety and health policy of the company;

(ii) ensuring implementation and compliance of the statutory provisions on safety and health;

(iii) to oversee and monitor the training and education on safety and health; and

(iv) to advise the managements at the unit level on issues concerning the health and safety of employees.

These functions also include various steps required to be taken to prevent accidents.

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: I would like to know from the Minister whether in such cases where the accident has occurred, due compensation is paid and on-the-spot enquiry is held to ascertain the causes of the injury or death and responsibility fixed on the erring persons. If so, how many persons have so far been penalised on this account? I would also like to know from the Minister whether any study has been carried out by the Government to know as to the safety measures taken to prevent such accidents in the plants in foreign countries like Japan and USA where the capacity of production of steel is more and accident rate is less.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Sir, I would be happy if the occasion for putting such a question did not arise at all, but unfortunately accidents do take place and we have evolved a machinery by which a regular check is kept on the safety and health regulations, in accordance with the safety and health policy of the company which is approved by the Board of Directors. We have a safety engineering department. There is an apex committee and there are 37 shop floor committees which take immediate action. One is preventive action and for this there is a special committee appointed which goes into the accidents detected.