

Drug addiction along border areas of Pakistan

†1796. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that addiction of opium and heroin is increasing among youths living in border areas of the country along Pakistan especially in Punjab and a large number of youths of border areas including Punjab are becoming drug addicts, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps being taken by the Ministry to curb the narcotics business in the country and the result thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that various agencies of the country are not able to curb such type of banned narcotics business and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) Data regarding Drug addiction is not maintained by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Ministry of Home Affairs. However, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) had conducted a survey in 2000-2001 (report published in 2004) to know the extent, pattern and trends of drug abuse in India. This report has revealed that Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Western Rajasthan were the regions of high prevalence of opiate use.

(b) The steps being taken by the Narcotics Control Bureau to curb the narcotics business in the country are:

1. Supply Reduction Measures:

- (i) Coordination and sharing of intelligence with various law enforcement agencies of Centre like Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Central Excise and Customs and of State agencies like Police and State Excise.
- (ii) Training Programmes are being regularly conducted for law enforcement officials for upgrading their skills to combating drug menace.
- (iii) Sharing of real time information and coordination operation with Nodal Agencies of neighbouring countries.
- (iv) Border Security Force, Sashastra Seema Bal and Coast Guards have been empowered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act for making interdiction of narcotic drugs.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (v) Financial assistance is being provided to eligible States for strengthening their anti-narcotics units.
- (vi) Monetary rewards for information leading to seizures of Narcotic drugs/ destruction of illicit crops to informers and officers are being provided.
- (vii) Prepare and execute action plan for destruction of illicit poppy and cannabis cultivation in coordination with State Agencies. NCB also provides satellite images of areas under illegal cultivation of cannabis and poppy through the Zonal offices of NCB to State Agencies for effective destruction.

2. Demand Reduction Measures:

- (i) Organizing/conducting awareness programmes in schools/colleges in different parts of India making the vulnerable classes of society aware of the abuse of narcotic drugs and its ill effects.
- (ii) Display Boards, in Pubs and Bars and Airports, have been installed to spread awareness about the punishment provided in law for drug trafficking and its abuse.
- (iii) Display Boards in School Buses to spread awareness among the children about the abuse of drugs.
- (iv) Display Boards in Delhi Metro.
- (v) Power Point Presentation compiling information on drug abuse and its health and economic costs useful for teachers, students and parents sent to all District Magistrates/Collectors of the Country to conduct awareness programmes in the schools/colleges falling in their jurisdiction.
- (vi) Drug Awareness Display on NCB Facebook Page to inform the public about the ill effects of drug abuse and drug trafficking.
- (vii) NCB organizes International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26th June every year in all field units of NCB to spread awareness among the general public about the ill effects of drug abuse and drug trafficking.
- (viii) Rallies and Dramas are conducted regularly in association with NGOs to spread awareness programmes all over the country.
- (ix) SMS alerts of Drug Awareness are flashed through mobile service providers on special occasions.
- (x) Organization of Workshops and Seminars in coordination with various Government Agencies and NGOs in the country about ill effects of drug abuse and trafficking.

3. International Coordination Measures:

- (i) India has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on drug related matter with 11 countries and Bilateral Agreements with 23 countries.
- (ii) DG level talks are held regularly with Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Afghanistan.
- (iii) Various Ministerial, Secretary level talks are held with neighbouring countries.

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has taken the following steps to control drug abuse:

- (i) Financial Assistance is provided to NGOs for running Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCAs), organizing de-addiction camps and conducting awareness programmes about the ill effects of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) abuse. At present 391 IRCAs are being run by 351 NGOs across the country. Recently the Ministry of Social Justice has sanctioned 28 new IRCAs in the State of Punjab.
- (ii) National Institute of Social Defence organizes sensitization programme in schools and colleges and skill development programme for its target groups.
- (iii) Organized rallies, paintings campaign, workshops and seminars at the National level and State level on the occasion of International Day against Drug abuse and illicit trafficking on 26th June, 2015.
- (iv) Information regarding ill-effects of alcoholism and drug abuse is disseminated through All India Radio Programmes in regional languages.
- (v) Organized a regional workshop in collaboration with National Service Scheme (NSS) to sensitize the people of North East and strengthen the drug awareness programme.

(c) Enforcement activity is a continuous effort. Various drug law enforcement agencies have been taking action to enforce the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 in the country and many cases have been registered under NDPS Act, 1985. The data of cases and arrests in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances by various agencies in the past three years as reported to NCB are furnished hereunder:

Particulars	2012	2013	2014
No. of cases	13268	23041	23682
No. of arrests	13871	26658	27455