

says, I quote, "... and involves small quantity with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with a fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees or with both." Sir, even though the Section talks about imprisonment with a fine up to ₹10,000, the usual practice is imposing a very small fine, up to ₹5,000 or below. As per the present schedule, which prescribes the quantity, quantity up to 1,000 grams, that is, up to one kilogram, is treated as small quantity and the offence is treated as bailable one. So, the accused finds it very easy to get bail from the office itself. The traders and carriers of ganja are always ready to remit the fine. The definition of 'small quantity' is a very big loophole. With the help of this loophole, the same persons and criminals are continuously committing the same offence. They keep ganja in small packets of 50 grams or 100 grams and carry less than 1000 grams at a time. This is a very serious issue and it seriously affects the younger generation, especially the student community. In order to get over this situation, one of the remedies is to redefine 'small quantity' by reducing the quantity from 1,000 grams to 100 or 200 grams, and exceeding 100 or 200 grams must be included in the 'medium quantity'. The offence should be treated as non-bailable one and the fine should be enhanced to a minimum of ₹25,000. The most stringent provisions must be incorporated in the Act. The Government of Kerala has already requested the Central Government to make necessary amendment in the Act. Hence, I request the Government to take immediate necessary action to amend the law. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI K.K. RAGESH (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI AHMAD ASHFAQUE KARIM (Bihar): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

Need for raising a Kalinga Regiment from Odisha

SHRI SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Odisha is known as the land of gallantry and valour. This goes back into history when we talk about the Kalinga War or the Paika rebellion. Similarly, in terms of defence and contribution to defence by the State, Odisha, through its Integrated Test Range Centre of DRDO at the Abdul Kalam Island has been home to major defence contributions in terms of missile technology. Whether it is Akash, Agni, Astra, BrahMos, Nirbhay, Prithvi, Shaurya, Advanced Air Defence or Prithvi Air Defence, Odisha was and has been contributing

[Shri Sasmit Patra]

substantially to the Defence of this nation. Apart from that, the INS Chilka, which has been a state-of-the-art training facility for the Naval as well as the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., has contributed immensely to this nation, Sir. I am placing this on record primarily because there has been a long-standing demand for raising a Kalinga Regiment in the Indian Army from the State of Odisha. In this regard, late Shri Biju Patnaik had, actually, raised his demand and had continuously been voicing his demand. In 2015, again, it was placed before the Centre, but it has not materialised so far. Sir, through you, I would like to place before the Government that there should be raising of the Kalinga Regiment, considering the contribution of the State to the nation's Defence establishment, and at the same time, because it is on the Eastern Seaboard of India, ensuring for the protection of such eminent establishments just like the Abdul Kalam Island, Sir.

SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM (Odisha): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

Need to set up Council for translations of Indian literary works

DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE (Maharashtra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we know that literature is one of the strong pillars of soft power all over the world, and a land like India which is known for Ramayana and Mahabharat, I think, is conscious about the influence of these epics in several cultures, in several parts of the world. But, even then the fact remains that after Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, in the last over 100 years, not a single Indian literary work has been found fit for Nobel Prize. Therefore, if we go into the crux of the whole issue, you will find that once it was considered that the Swedish Academy has a Euro-centric thinking, and, therefore, they don't give awards to people beyond Europe or America, for that matter. But, that is not the case any more. For example, during the last several years, the awards have been given to individual literators from Peru, Guatemala, Saint Lucia, even twice of China and South Africa as well. Therefore, we have already missed the bus. We could ensure Nobel Prize for Shri R.K. Narayan, or giants like Utrul-uddin Haider of the Urdu literature or Shri V.S. Khandekar, for that matter, from Maharashtra. But, now, I believe we have