

Sukhdeorao Bonde (Maharashtra), Shri Chunnilal Garasiya (Rajasthan) and Shri Amar Pal Maurya (Uttar Pradesh).

Now Dr. M. Thambidurai. ...(*Interruptions*)... You are right. His turn should have come in the end. But since he made a request, I acceded to it.

Concern over drug/alcohol menace

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter afflicting the country and making lives of the people miserable. It is drug alcohol menace. Drug/alcohol abuse has become a worldwide menace. This has emerged as a serious concern, adversely affecting the physical and socio-economic well-being of the country. The epidemic of drug abuse in younger generation has assumed alarming dimensions in India. Addiction to alcohol/drugs not only affects the individual involved, but also the family and society at large.

India is sandwiched between two largest opium-producing regions of the world, that is, the Golden Triangle comprising Thailand, Myanmar and Vietnam on one side, and the Golden Crescent comprising Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran on the other. The menace of drug/alcohol addiction has spread fast among the youth of India.

As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, the incidence of sale of ganja and other narcotic drugs is increasing and they are available very easily near schools and colleges. Drug menace is rampant in Tamil Nadu, and every day, there are reports of murders, as a result of drugs/alcohol abuse. Drug and alcohol addiction has become a menace which threatens public health. In Kallakurichi in Tamil Nadu, a month ago, more than 65 persons died due to consumption of illicit and spurious methanol mixed liquor.

I request the Centre to formulate a pan-India policy on drug/alcohol abuse and send an advisory to the States in order to reduce abuse of all types of drugs.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Dr. M. Thambidurai: Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shrimati Sulata Deo (Odisha), Shrimati S. Phangnon Konyak (Nagaland), Shri Haris Beeran (Kerala), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala) and Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala).