

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title : Regarding increase in use of banned narcotics substance in Kerala- Laid.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): I would like to know if the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs is aware of the alarming increase in usage of narcotics and narcotics-related cases in Kerala. During 2019-2021, the annual-average of cases was 6409, which has jumped to 16128 cases this year, just until August; similarly for arrests it has increased from 7693 to 17834. In September, Keralites were shocked when 652 drug-cases were registered within 4 days. Further, manufactured-psychotropic-substances are becoming more prevalent than less harmful drugs.

Most of the drug-supply originates in large cities outside the State and is distributed through organised networks using, inter-alia, clandestine freight-transport, courier-services and, worryingly, Malayali-students based outside the State. Instances of international-transactions through the Dark Web are also not infrequent. Data reveals that substance-abuse has increased among Keralas' teenagers and students in the past 5 years. At the same time, the persons availing benefits under the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction in the State has declined from 6642 in 2017-18 to 4887 in 2021-22.

Whilst a "No-to-Drugs" awareness-campaign has been initiated in the State to counter this situation, I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to monitor the situation in co-operation with the State and inform the House of the measures being taken to eradicate the production and distribution of banned narcotic-substances.