

**Legislation to Make Drug Peddling as a Serious Offence**

966. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA  
RAO :

SHRI D.N. REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that raw narcotics like poppy are grown in Chambal valley and in the North East Region which is intended for Government factories for the manufacture of opium and morphine, finds its way clandestinely to drug manufacturers;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to check the illegal flow of poppy etc., to drug manufacturers;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce legislation to make drug peddling as serious offence as murder rape etc. and provide deterrent punishment; and

(d) whether peddling in drug is treated equivalent to rape and murder in U.S.A. where first offenders are given upto 18 years jail sentence ?

THE MINISTER STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Opium poppy is cultivated in India only in the tracts notified by the Government and under proper licence. The main growing areas which lie in the course of river chambal are the districts of Mandsaur in Madhya Pradesh and Kota in Rajasthan. Strict vigilance is maintained by the departmental staff in the poppy growing areas and as a result, leakage of opium from licit cultivation is minimal. The seizure of opium in internal traffic is less than 0.5% of the total quantity of opium produced from licit cultivation.

(b) to (d). The field formations remain vigilant to check the leakages from licit cultivation. Strict supervision is exercised over the poppy cultivation right from the stage of its sowing to final handing over to the Departmental Officers. These measures include a cent percent measurement of plots for checking excess and

unauthorised cultivation; strict watch on the trafficking activities; weighment of daily collections of cultivators and preventive checks in and around the growing areas in close coordination with State Government authorities. Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 which inter-alia provides deterrent punishment for trafficking offences, passed by the Parliament in the last session has been brought into force from 14-11-1985. The punishments provided therein for trafficking offences range from a minimum of ten years rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 1 lakh to a maximum of 20 years rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 2 lakhs. For repeat offences, the punishments range from a minimum of 15 years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 1.5 lakhs to a maximum of 30 years rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 3 lakhs. Further, the Courts have also been given the discretion to impose a fine exceeding the maximum limits stated above.

**Smuggling of Charas, Hashish into the Country Through Pakistan**

967. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

SHRI JAGANNATH  
PATTNAIK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large quantity of charas, hashish and other such items are being smuggled into the country through Pakistan;

(b) if so, the quantity and value of such items seized during the months April-September this year and the number of persons arrested; and

(c) the steps being taken to stop the smuggling ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. According to the reports received, the quantities of narcotic drugs seized and the number of persons arrested during the months April-September this year are as below :—