

Regarding need to take stringent measures to control the production and distribution of banned narcotic substances in Kerala and other parts of the country-Laid

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): I wish to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs to the alarming rise in narcotic use and related cases in Kerala, which have seen a 335 percent surge from 2016 to 2022 as per reports of the Government of Kerala. According to excise data, from 2016 to 2022, the number of people detained for NDPS-related offences increased by 87.47 per cent, from 3,217 to 6,031. This period saw a 104 percent increase in the number of cases reported.

Despite their high cost, drugs are growing in popularity among young people because of peer pressure and their easy availability. Most of the drug supply originates in large cities outside Kerala and is distributed through organised networks using a number of channels, including freight transport, courier services, and, worryingly, even Malayali students and professionals based in these cities. Instances of international transactions through the Dark Web are also frequent. These alarming trends underscore the pervasive presence of organized drug networks, and the challenges to arresting their operations.

I, therefore, urge the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs to take stringent measures to eradicate the production and distribution of banned narcotic substances.