

Regarding drug menace in the country, particularly in Kerala

SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Thank you, Madam Chairperson, for giving me the opportunity. I rise today with a heavy heart and a serious concern that has been invaded in our very homes, schools, and the future of our country, particularly in my State of Kerala.

Every single day, we wake up with news flashings of drug menace and crimes. The parents are terrified; the teachers are terrified; society is also terrified. What we are witnessing is not merely data, but the helplessness of society, the shattering of family bonds, and the silent erosion of hope.

In the past two months alone, 63 murders have shocked Kerala, with half of these brutal incidents directly linked to substances and drug abuse. These are not isolated numbers. They are the hopeless cries of communities where parents now live in fear of their children, and where teachers, the very nurturers of our youth, are compelled to watch their students fall prey to a merciless enemy.

Sons are killing mothers. Brothers are killing sisters. Every day, we are witnessing these types of incidents. For the past four years, in Kerala alone, 87,101 drug-related cases were recorded, leading to 93,599 arrests. According to the data uploaded, in 2021, there were 5,695 cases; in 2022, 26,219 cases; in 2023, 30,697 cases; and in 2024, 27,530 cases.

Madam, there is a 300 per cent spike in drug-related cases, and it is both alarming and disturbing. The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act of 1985 allows offenders caught with small quantities to secure bail, offering traffickers a dangerous reprieve and a chance to resume their destructive trade. There are no stringent provisions in the law at all. There are models in the world, like Singapore, which effectively control this menace of drugs. The crisis demands a unified and resolute response.

If we watch the films, they are full of violence. They are promoting violence, which attracts our youngsters to that violence. The film industry, telefilm industries, and serial industries must come forward to discourage the glorifying attitude towards these crimes.

Madam, I would like to request the Union Government and all stakeholders, law enforcement, educators, community leaders, and all social workers to join hands in a comprehensive, immediate action plan. We cannot leave our children to face this greatest tragedy. We have a responsibility, as representatives of this country and as Members of Parliament, to address this concern seriously, beyond political lines and any other interests. Thank you.