

### **Regarding drug crises and epidemics in Meghalaya**

**SHRI SALENG A. SANGMA (TURA):** Thank You, Mr. Chairman Sir. I rise to speak on drugs crisis and epidemics in Meghalaya. I rise to expose the catastrophic failure threatening the North-East especially Meghalaya which faces unprecedented drugs with 10 per cent of our population, that is, 3 lakh people trapped in addiction, a horrifying increase from 2 lakh since last year. Among youth aged 15-29 years, the prevalence rate reaches a devastating 30 per cent of our population in Meghalaya. Meghalaya's proximity to the golden triangle and Manipur's unrest have worsened trafficking. However, this has not been reflected in the Customs inspection. Only 10 per cent of anything entering India is checked. Rest of the illegal drugs coming to Meghalaya are not checked. That is why I would like to urge upon the Government to kindly see that whatever is coming through the international border should be checked. Therefore, hon. Chairperson, I urge the Ministry of Home Affairs to immediately establish the 'National Drug Eradication Command' in the North-East, provide funding to the Government run rehabilitation Centre and conduct an onslaught on the drugs menace in Meghalaya.

Hon. Chairperson, instead of arresting whole of the drugs cartel and the mafia, the Government of Chhattisgarh is arresting the two Christian nuns who were innocent.