

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1926
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2007
SMART CARD PROJECT FOR POPPY CULTIVATION
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Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has implemented Smart Card Project for Poppy Cultivators in some States;
- (b) if so, the objectives thereof;
- (c) the details of the information contained therein;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to implement Smart Card Project in other Poppy growing States; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM)

(a) A Smart Card Project for issuing microprocessor chip based Smart Cards to opium poppy cultivators in the three poppy growing States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh was started in 2001. However, as there were some deficiencies in the hardware / software which were not resolved satisfactorily by the project implementer M/s Smart Chip Ltd., the project was not taken over by the Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN). Instead of correcting the deficiencies, the project implementer declared its unilateral withdrawal from the project and also withdrew supporting staff from all the locations which resulted in disruption of work. Since the project implementer also, despite reminding, did not renew the Bank Guarantee, the CBN wrote to the bank for encashment of the Bank Guarantee, on which M/s Smart Chip has obtained a stay order from the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi and the matter is sub-judice.

(b) The Smart Card Project was initiated with a view to digitize the entire data collection of opium poppy cultivators during the various cultivation operations such as settlement, measurement, test measurement, preliminary weighment register (PWR) checks, uprooting and weighment as well as compilation of the data and generation of reports through the use of dedicated software.

(c) The Smart Card System contains the essential information of the poppy cultivators such as name, village, area licensed, area harvested, opium yield, average yield of the village, name of the Lambardar, cultivators previous years' yield and number of cultivators in the village, Range, Division and Unit level.

(d)&(e) The Smart Card Project was proposed to be implemented in all the three opium growing States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. However the project was not taken over in view of the position as explained in (a) above and the matter is sub-judice.