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title: Need to take measures to close liquor shops located along the State and National Highways in the country.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS (DHARMAPURI): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring an important issue to the House about the youths of the country.

The Whole Health Organization has said that nearly 18 lakh people die in India due to alcohol use directly and indirectly. About ten lakh people die due to tobacco use directly and indirectly and only five to seven lakh people die due to communicable diseases like tuberculosis, malaria, cholera, swine flu, typhoid, HIV, bird flu and other diseases. So, this is a huge problem for the future generation of this country.

India has the highest road traffic accidents in the world. The reason is alcohol use. A Committee under the former Supreme Court, Shri K. Radhakrishnan has recommended that all the alcohol shops on the National Highways should be closed. He said that most of the deaths happen by accidents due to alcohol use.

The Advocates Forum on Social Justice had put up a case in the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court has asked the Government headed by the Attorney-General to bring out a comprehensive policy on alcohol being sold on the Highways.

The National Highway Authority of India has issued a circular saying that there should not be any alcohol shop on the National Highways throughout the country. But it is not heeded to by the States.

I would like to ask the Government whether it has any intention to bring out a National Alcohol Policy and also to bring in total enforcement of prohibition like they have done in the State of Gujarat.

Article 47 of the Constitution of India says that all the States should enforce total prohibition. I want to know whether the Government of India is going to bring out a National Alcohol Policy and also enforce prohibition so that millions of youth of our nation can be saved.