

Sixteenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Issue regarding illegal drug trafficking and drug abuse in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA (ARAKU): Madam, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak during 'Zero Hour' about the most important, sensitive and burning issue of illegal drug trafficking and drug abuse in Telugu-speaking States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh in particular... *(Interruptions)*.

I wish to bring to the notice of this House that in a series of incidents in Hyderabad, a huge drug racket had been busted and almost 20 people were arrested of which five to six people are foreigners... *(Interruptions)*. Accordingly, around 12 Tollywood celebrities and personalities have been summoned by SIT. These drug rackets are actually targeting the students and the youth of the State. So many people have been involved in this. The Media is doing a lot of speculation in the matter. As per the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, the Union Government is empowered to enquire in such cases.

Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to request the Union Government to kindly intervene in the matter and take over the case and entrust this matter of enquiry to the NCB for further investigation.

HON. SPEAKER:

Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and

Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Kothapalli Geetha.

Shrimati Renuka Butta, you can also associate with this matter.

SHRIMATI BUTTA RENUKA (KURNOOL): Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House about the disturbing involvement of children in drug abuse and its murky net in Hyderabad. More than 200 children are reported to have procured LSD blots, apart from involvement of high profile individuals. This is only a tip of the iceberg. This may have surfaced in Hyderabad but

might have spread across the country, especially in major cities. This is a problem concerning the health of India and its culture. The problem is more serious because the children who are the future and hope of this country, and the youth are being dragged into this murky trade.

The situation is so grave that the children are able to place orders online and get the stuff of their choice. I appreciate the Government of Telangana for their prompt action and investigation in the matter.

It is further reported that Visakapatnam has become the trade centre for supply of cannabis, locally known as '*ganjayi*' from where it is supplied across the country. It is necessary to find out whether what has been unearthed has terror and international ramifications.

We need to combat this menace by developing necessary specialized agencies for prevention of drug culture and cure of those affected. I request this Government to come out with a comprehensive legislation on this subject covering penal provisions, counseling, establishment of specialized rehabilitation and medical facilities... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER:

Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Butta Renuka.