

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

*Friday, May 5, 1989 Vaisakha 15, 1911
(Saka)*

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri Awadeshwar Prasad Sinha who was a member of the Provisional Parliament and First Lok Sabha during 1950-56 representing Muzaffarpur East constituency of Bihar. In 1956 he was elected to Rajya Sabha and remained a member of that House till 1976.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Sinha took keen interest in the problems of the peasantry and labour.

A veteran freedom fighter, he actively participated in the freedom struggle and suffered imprisonment. He also took part in the Civil Disobedience, Harijan uplift and Temple Entry movements in 1932-33.

An eminent and dedicated social worker, he was associated with several organisations in various capacities.

An able parliamentarian, he took keen interest in the proceedings of the House and made valuable contributions thereto.

Shri Awadeshwar Prasad Sinha passed away on 27th March, 1989 at the age of 82.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

UNFDAC Assisted Project

*861. SHRI SRIHARI RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects to be implemented in the country with the assistance of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC); and

(b) the voluntary organizations/agencies involved in implementation of projects and the extent of their involvement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) The United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC), in an agreement signed on 17th August, 1988 with the Government of India, has committed financial assistance of US \$ 20 million in the field of drug abuse prevention. The amount will be spent over a period of five years. The details of allocation for various activities under the project are indicated as under —

		US \$ (in million)
1	Strengthening of measures against illicit drug traffic	7 50
2.	Modernisation and strengthening of narcotic drugs testing laboratories	0 80
3	Strengthening of control over illicit opium production	3 50
4	Drug dependence, prevention and treatment measures	5 35
5	Rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug addicts	2 50
6	Prevention of drug abuse through education and information	0 35
		20 00

(b) Two voluntary organisations, namely, The Opium Deaddiction Treatment, Training and Research Trust, Jodhpur and Jagran of Delhi have been identified for financial assistance. The opium Deaddiction Treatment, Training and Research Trust, Jodhpur would get US \$ 4,50,000 over a period of five years for activities relating to community awareness, treatment and rehabilitation of addicts, in the field of drug abuse. Jagran of Delhi would get US \$ 80,000 over a period of five years for its activities in the field of drug abuse control relating to training of theatre and pantomime artists in creating community awareness against drug abuse.

SHRI SHRIHARI RAO Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply has said that 7.5 million dollars have been allocated to strengthen measures against illicit drug traffic. It is often reported in the Press that illicit drug traffic from Pakistan is very acute. What are the specific steps taken to prevent smuggling of drugs especially Ganja and Opium from Pakistan to India? What is the

amount spent and which are the agencies employed for this purpose?

SHRI A K PANJA Sir, the first part of the question does not arise out of this question. But so far as the Indo-Pak border is concerned, we have taken several steps to contain drug trafficking. Indo-Pak border is controlled by the Border Security Force and some other agencies including the narcotic staff and customs staff. There are check points at specific points of entry wherein there are regular checks which are carried on and the border area being a vast area, an open border, the help of the local police is also taken for the purpose of containing the situation. We have established counter-intelligence for exchange of information with Pakistan and India and they are also giving us help. So far as the second portion of the question is concerned, the amount which has been given is 20 million US dollars for a period of five years which comes to about Rs. 27 crores in Indian currency as on 17th August, 1988. Our year starts with the calen-

dar year and not with the financial year. Of that amount, so far as this year is concerned, the total amount which has been budgeted for is Rs. 6.90 crores. Some help is being given for the purpose modernising the Narcotic Control Bureau—The Narcotic Control Bureau has already been set up. Additional help will go for forensic laboratories science and training. The amount allotted for the Narcotic Control Bureau is Rs. 2.20 crores, for forensic laboratories science and training is Rs. 26 lakhs, for the Narcotic commission, which is set up is Rs. 58 lakhs, for the University Grants Commission is Rs. 20 lakhs, for the Ministry of Health, for the purpose of taking care of the people already addicted with drugs, is Rs. 2.27 crores and for the Ministry of Welfare, for opening counselling centres and others, is Rs. 1.37 crores. So, the total amount is Rs. 6.90 crores.

SHRI SRIHARI RAO: Will the Government take steps to organise students vigilance cells in the university campus and hostels to prevent drug addiction among the student population? In some of the universities like the Osmania University in Hyderabad, such a students cell is already organised. Will the Government encourage them?

SHRI A.K. PANJA: Yes, Sir. Whenever there are students particularly in voluntary organisations, we are encouraging them. If there is a cell which is also recognised by the university or by the department concerned, we are encouraging them. You must have seen in the newspapers they are already doing; they are taking out processions and organising seminars in their own locality, and we are giving help to them.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, opium is being grown in the country. Particularly in Madhya Pradesh and Kota there is illicit opium production. Farmers produce more than the prescribed limit and then this excess opium is diverted to areas like Barmer, Jaisalmer or Jodhpur. There are no special arrangements to check this. Does the Government intend to take

steps against the illicit opium production by imposing a ban on production of opium above the prescribed limits? This has led to a high intake of opium in our areas. Are any voluntary organisations active in the field of treatment of opium addicts and what has been the result of their efforts?

[*English*]

SHRI A.K. PANJA: Sir, not only in the area mentioned by the Hon. Member, but in Kerala also we had a massive programme to destroy the illicit cultivation of cannabis and we succeeded in our effort. Sir, the problem has to be tackled taking into consideration the whole aspect of it. The farmers prefer to grow easy cash crop. So, the problem has to be solved at the grass root level. Until we provide the farmers with the alternative crop to grow we cannot solve this problem. We have coordinated with the Ministry of Agriculture so that the farmers may be given some aid in the form of some seeds...

PROF. N.G. RANGA: Some compensation.

SHRI A.K. PANJA: No, not compensation but some substitute crop has to be grown in these areas. Otherwise also we have limited the licit growing area. We are bringing down the area of licence cultivation gradually because right now if we completely stop giving licence, it will not be beneficial to the farmers and they will grow it illegally. So, we are restricting even the licit cultivation of Opium to the extent it is required for medicinal purposes. To check the illicit cultivation we have mounted vigil in the sensitive areas so that we can get the information. We have taken the help of the State Government—as we have done in Manipur and Kerala—and destroyed huge quantities of illicit Cannabis cultivation.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, whenever the hon. Minister of Finance talks of opium in the context of Madhya Pradesh, his attention is drawn