

[English]

**Abuse of Psychotropic Substances and Polydrugs**

3856. SHRI R. S. GAVAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Narcotic Control Board has indicated in its latest report that abuse of psychotropic substances and polydrugs has rising in South Asia;

(b) if so, the details of the report; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) UN International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) in its report for the year 1998 mentions that the analgesic buprenorphine is increasingly being abused in South Asia and has already become one of the main drugs abused in some parts of the region. Suprenorphine is reportedly abused mostly by young man who live in urban centres in Bangladesh, India and Nepal. It is also mentioned therein that other medicinal products such as hypnotics and sedatives and anxiolytics (barbiturates and benzo-diazepines) continue to be abused in most countries in South Asia. Abuse of codeine based cough medicines have also been pointed out in the INCB Report.

(b) All State Drug Controller authorities have been advised to issue suitable instructions to the Inspectorate Staff to prevent the easy availability of these drugs to retail outlets and also to ensure that these drugs marketed under different brand names are supplied against the prescription of a registered medical practitioner to control the possible misuse of these drugs. Manufacturers marketing formulations containing these drugs have been advised to have minimum stockist outlets for sale and to ensure that these drugs should be sold and used under strict medical supervisions. Export of psychotropic substances out of India is permitted on export authorisation issued after verification of original import certificate issued by the competent authority of the importing country and if the proposed import is within the estimated requirements of that country as per estimates indicated by the INCB.

[Translation]

**Incentives to FPI**

3857. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given incentives to the Food Processing Industry to promote exports during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the value of processed food exported during each of the last three years; and

(d) the investment made during the above period in the Industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The Government has been encouraging export of processed food items through various support/assistance schemes. The assistance provided in this regard include the following:-

(i) Provision of grant/loan for development and modernisation of meat processing, establishment of post harvest infrastructure and cold chain facilities for food processing, assistance for undertaking Research and Development, human resource development, Strengthening of traditional fish processing technologies and marketing;

(ii) Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment;

(iii) Providing financial assistance to exporters/growers/Cooperative Societies for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of pre cooling/cold storage facilities, integrated post-harvest handling systems (pack houses);

(iv) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control including adoption of quality systems such as ISO 9000 HACCP at export units;

(v) Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions;

(vi) Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports.

(c) The value of export of processed food items comprising of processed fruits and vegetables and other processed food items during the last three years as follows:-

Year	Value (Rs. Crores)
1996-97	2309.68
1997-98	2256.37
1998-99 (April-January 1999)	1551.38

(Source : APEDA)

(d) The foreign direct investments and technical collaboration approved during the period January 1996 to December 1998 in the food processing industries has been as follows:

No of approvals	236
Amount of FDI approval	Rs. 5944.24 crores

[English]

**Financial Restructuring of State Financial Corporations**

3858. SHRI UPENDRA NATH NAYAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: