

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3352
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2008
SMUGGLING OF DRUGS THROUGH POST OFFICES
Murmu Shri Hemlal

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cases of smuggling of drugs/psychotropic substances through Post Offices and private courier companies have come to light recently in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years and the current year; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check this smuggling and illegal business?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) Yes, Sir. Some such cases were noticed in post offices.

(b) One hundred eighty cases have come to light in Delhi Postal Circle, where drugs & psychotropic substances worth Rs. 464.1 lakhs were seized by Custom Authorities at Foreign Post Office, New Delhi from the articles being sent through Post Offices. One such case has come to light in North East Postal Circle, where Deputy Commissioner, Custom, Agartala had raided the India Post Cargo Plane at Agartala Airport and found 39.54 kilogram of Ganja from the articles transmitted through Post Offices. Five cases have come to light in Tamilnadu Postal Circle where postal articles were seized by

- (i) Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Chennai Zonal Unit, Chennai from Chennai Air Foreign/2
- (ii) Air Intelligence Unit of Chennai Air Customs at Chennai Airport and handed over to Narcotics Control Bureau and
- (iii) Narcotics Control Bureau, South Zonal Unit, Chennai at Air Foreign/2 for investigation.

(c) Provisions are already there in the Indian Post Office Rules, 1933 for prohibiting the transmission of such contrabands and narcotics through the Post Offices. In the instant cases, instructions have been issued to field units to ensure that all articles booked over the counter bear complete address of the sender and in case of foreign national, have details of the passport number invariably. They have also been instructed to ensure that no article containing any prohibited content under the Indian Post Office Rules, 1933 is booked. Further, the officials of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) also visit Foreign Post Offices of the Department of Posts to check the outward postal articles. The bags for foreign countries are also scanned by the security arrangements at international airports.