

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:342

ANSWERED ON:20.04.2010

SPURIOUS LIQUOR

Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Verma Smt. Usha

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of persons died due to alleged consumption of spurious and illicit liquor;
- (b) if so, the fatal cases reported during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) the quantum of illicit/spurious liquor seized during each of the last three years, State-wise;
- (d) the action taken against the accused persons;
- (e) whether the Government has initiated any action for creating awareness among the public about the harmful effect of consumption of liquor; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to check such illegal trade in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.342 FOR 20-04-2010 REGARDING 'SPURIOUS LIQUOR'.

(a) to (f): As per information compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) on the basis of reports received from the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, a total of 685, 1251 and 1358 persons died due to consumption of spurious / poisonous liquor during 2006, 2007 and 2008 respectively. The State/UT-wise details of cases reported and number of persons died due to consumption of spurious / poisonous liquor during 2006, 2007 and 2008 are enclosed at Annexure. The latest available information pertains to the year 2008. NCRB does not maintain data relating to the quantum of seizure of illicit/spurious liquor by the State Governments/UTs.

'Intoxicating liquors, that is to say, the production, manufacture, possession, transport, purchase and sale of intoxicating liquors' are specifically covered by Entry 8 of List II(State List) of Schedule 7 to the Constitution of India and therefore the States have the exclusive power to regulate their production, manufacture, possession, transport, purchase and sale. Therefore, the State Governments are primarily responsible for controlling the sale of spurious liquor, prevention of such incidents of death due to consumption of spurious liquor and investigation into the matter for prosecuting the criminals. 'Police' and 'Public Order' also being State subjects under the Schedule 7 to the Constitution of India, the State Governments are primarily responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and for prosecuting the criminals through the machinery of their law enforcement agencies under the extant and appropriate law(s), as also for protecting the life and property of the citizens. The Union Government, however, attaches highest importance to the matter of prevention of crime and therefore, has been advising the State Governments/UT Administrations from time to time to give more focused attention to improving the administration of criminal justice system and take such measures as are necessary for prevention and control of crime within their respective jurisdictions.

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment under its 'Scheme of Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse and for Social Defence Services' is providing financial assistance to Non-Governmental Organizations for running Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCA) under which one of the components is awareness generation among public about the harmful effects of consumption of liquor. During the year 2009-10, 262 IRCA were released an amount of Rs.22.79 crore under the above-said Scheme. Campaign on the ill effects of the drugs are discussed by NGO assisted by MOSJE with people so that correct information and life skills are available to the people to help them to choose a drug free and healthy life style. Information, Education and communication (IEC) materials like posters, banners, panels, brochures, audio and visual spots have been developed by that Ministry to impart knowledge about drugs through radio, television, newspapers and other mass media.