

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FINANCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1136  
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2011  
DESTRUCTION OF ILLEGALLY GROWN CANNABIS  
Mani Shri Jose K.

**Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether some of the hybrid varieties of cannabis which are a feed stock for high grade narcotics, are grown in Himachal Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the law enforcement agencies engaged in destroying the illegally grown cannabis are backed by Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) workers in the State; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and future plan of the Government in this direction?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM)

(a)& (b) Yes, Hybrid varieties of cannabis have been found to have been grown in the inaccessible mountainous regions of Himachal Pradesh, Such varieties are found to be different in terms of resin yield, plant height and hemp quality and have apparently been grown by local villagers with assistance from outsiders.

(c)& (d) Yes, MNREGA workers are being employed by Law Enforcement Agencies and District authorities, temporarily in the destruction of Cannabis as well as Poppy plants, in the state. The total fund allotted for the destruction of illegal Narcotics crop in the State are to the tune of Rs. One Crore provided by District Rural Development Authority (DRDA) to concerned district under the head MNREGA, which are distributed as under:-

Sl.No. Name of Distt. Amount allotted for  
distribution (in Rs.)

1. Chamba	22,00,000/-
2. Kullu	30,00,000/-
3. Shimla	11,00,000/-
4. Mandi	18,00,000/-
5. Kangra	08,00,000/-
6. Sirmour	09,00,000/-
7 Solan	02,00,000/-
TOTAL AMOUNT	1,00,00,000/-

Government is strengthening the drug law enforcement machinery in the State. Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) under Ministry of Home Affairs, has recently opened its Mandi Intelligence Cell in Mandi, Himachal Pradesh. Financial assistance is provided to the State to strengthen their narcotics units.