

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2135
ANSWERED ON:27.03.2012
DEATHS DUE TO SPURIOUS LIQUOR
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of deaths due to alleged consumption of spurious and illicit liquor;
- (b) if so, the number of such fatal cases reported and the action taken against the accused during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Union Government has issued any directives to the State Governments in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the State Governments in this regard; and
- (e) the other steps taken to check such illegal trade and to make the law more effective in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH)

- (a) to (b): The State/UT-wise number of deaths reported due to consumption of spurious and illicit liquor are attached at Annexure.
- (c) to (e) : 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.