

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6966
ANSWERED ON:18.05.2012
CULTIVATION OF POPPY
Dhanaplan Shri K. P.

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to allow the private sector to produce alkaloids from opium and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the measures taken by the Government to stop the unauthorized cultivation of opium and other narcotic products in the country;
- (c) whether the Government is inviting direct applications from the universities for development assistance; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and guidelines in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes. Government has proposed to licence one private company to process 200 MTs of Indian opium and produce alkaloids/ bulk drugs therefrom after inviting an Expression of Interest for this purpose and selecting the company on the basis of technical/financial bids.
- (b) The Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 prohibits the illicit cultivation of opium and other narcotic products in the country. Contravention of the provisions of the Act invites stringent punishment which may extend upto 10 years. A number of agencies have been empowered to carry out enforcement functions under the Act. The Central Government also uses satellite imagery to detect illicit poppy cultivation which is then eradicated by the enforcement agencies. The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) coordinates such eradications actions. Nodal officers have been appointed in certain States where illicit poppy cultivation is known to occur for better coordination of eradication efforts.
- (c) & (d) No.