

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2829  
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2012  
SMUGGLING OF POPPY HUSK  
Jeyadural Shri S. R.

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether it is a fact that poppy powder/poppy husk is being smuggled in large quantity from Rajasthan to other States in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether there has been a demand for imposing a ban on the sale of poppy husk in Rajasthan;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to impose a ban on the sale of poppy husk and for strengthening the Narcotics Control Bureau to check smuggling of the same?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) & (b): As per the reports of Narcotics Control Bureau, the details of seizures of poppy husk/poppy powder in the country State-wise during the last three years and the current year are enclosed at annexure.

(c) & (d): There is no report of demand for ban on sale of poppy husk in Rajasthan.

(e): The National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances announced by the Government provides a time bound reduction in the use of poppy straw by addicts. Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act empowers the State Governments to permit and regulate, sale, use etc, of poppy straw. This power of the State Governments is subject to the restriction under Section 8 by which no narcotic drug or psychotropic substance can be used except for medical or scientific purposes. Although morphine is mainly present only in the husk of the pod, after extraction of the juice, the husk of the pod (poppy straw) still contains a very small portion of the alkaloids and if consumed in sufficient quantity, this husk has an intoxicating effect. The husk of poppy straw is allowed to be supplied to registered poppy straw addicts for de-addiction. As per report of an Expert Committee constituted by the Government, provision of poppy straw to addicts is not a medical necessity. The levels of use of poppy straw noticed cannot be regarded as compulsive, denial of which would cause acute withdrawal symptoms causing irreparable damage to the patient. The manner and use of poppy straw in States is not under medical supervision and that supply of such large dosage of poppy straw is likely to lead to spread of addiction. The 'National Policy' accordingly, provides for progressive reduction in the quantity of poppy straw to be provided to addicts so as to ensure that after 31st March, 2015, there are no addicts requiring poppy straw. After this period the entire quantity of poppy straw shall be ploughed back.

Various steps have been taken to strengthen Narcotics Control Bureau to tackle drug trafficking which include its expansion in terms of manpower with addition of new zones/subzones, appointment of adequate number of Law officers to expedite cases in trial courts/higher courts, creation of designated courts to try NDPS cases, amendment of NDPS Act 2001 to make it more stringent etc. Other measures include strengthening of the intelligence apparatus to improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of operational intelligence; implementing a scheme of monetary rewards to informers and officers for information leading to seizures of Narcotic drugs; strict surveillance and enforcement at import and export points; and improved co-ordination to enhance co-operation among the various Drug Law Enforcement Agencies.