

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:233
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2012
DRUG MENACE
Choudhry Smt. Shruti

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the drug menace is reportedly on the rise in the country and various States particularly Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan are being affected by narcotics that manage to find their way to consumers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to tackle this problem?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) There is no authentic data to conclusively indicate that drug menace is on the rise in the country or in the States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan.

(c) A number of steps have been taken by the Government to counter the drug menace in general. As a part of legislative measures, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 has been enacted, which provides for stringent penalties for illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. A number of agencies of both Central and State Governments have been empowered to enforce the provisions of the Act. To reduce supply of drugs, these enforcement agencies have adopted various measures, inter alia including, (i) intensive preventive and interdiction efforts along known drug routes, (ii) strict surveillance and enforcement at entry/exit points of the border, (iii) strengthening of the intelligence system, and (iv) bilateral / multilateral cooperation with other countries for sharing of information on illicit trafficking. To reduce demand for drugs, the Ministry- of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing a Central Sector Scheme, namely, Scheme of Assistance for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse to create awareness and educate people about the ill-effects of drug abuse on the individual, family, workplace, and society at large.