

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:277
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2012
NATIONAL DRUG POLICY
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Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has unveiled a new National Drug Policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is proposed to involve private sector participation in the cultivation of poppy and alkaloids and also to combat black money generation and illegal trade of drugs;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

- (a) The National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) was released on 06.02.2012.
- (b) The salient features and broad aspects of the policy inter alia include
 - (i) production of alkaloids by Concentrate of Poppy Straw method. (i.i) encouraging research institutions to develop alkaloid free varieties of opium poppy suitable for sole production of poppy seeds, (iii) a time bound reduction in the use of poppy straw by addicts, (iv) use of satellite imageries for detection of illicit crop and its subsequent eradication and development of alternate means of livelihood in respect of cultivators, (v) the involvement of the private sector in the production of alkaloids from opium, (vi) introduction of non-intrusive methods of regulating the manufacture, trade and use of psychotropic substances, (vii) adequate access to morphine and other opioids necessary for palliative care, (viii) periodic survey of drug abuse in the country and (ix) recognition of de-addiction centers.
- (c) to (e) Production of alkaloids by Concentrate of Poppy Straw (CPS) method and encouraging research institutions and companies to develop / import seeds for production of CPS are envisaged in the policy, involvement of the private sector in the production of alkaloids from opium is also envisaged under the policy. To combat illicit manufacture and trafficking of narcotic drugs, the policy suggests a number of steps to be taken by the Central & State Governments. The Central Government shall take suitable measures to (i) develop groups of enforcement officers for dismantling clan labs and taking legal and other follow up action, (ii) maintain a strict vigil over licit production of opium poppy and licit manufacture and trade of precursors to prevent diversions, (iii) look out for illicit production of opium poppy in the country and destroy it, and (iv) strengthen specialized anti-narcotics agencies. The State Governments shall set up, wherever necessary, cells or squads at the district levels to detect and take action against illicit cultivation of opium poppy, illicit production of opium, illicit manufacturing of drugs in clan labs, etc. The issue of combating black money generation does not directly find mention in the National Policy on NDPS as the focus of the policy is on the use & abuse of narcotic drugs & psychotropic substances.