

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6059

ANSWERED ON:03.05.2013

NATIONAL POLICY ON DRUGS

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Yadav Shri Dharmendra

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(c) whether the Government has prepared or proposes to prepare a time bound action plan to provide alternative means of livelihood for poppy cultivators and to combat the use and trafficking of illegal drugs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (c): Under the 'National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances released by the Government in February 2012, 'alternative development' i.e. providing alternative means of employment to farmers who have been traditionally cultivating opium poppy illegally, has been envisaged. As per the policy, the Government shall identify, after a careful study, pockets where illegal cultivation has been a long tradition and the survival of the local population depends entirely on it. Once the areas have been identified in a State, no new areas will be added to the list. Alternative development programmes may be taken up in the identified areas.

A number of steps have been taken by the Government to counter the drug menace in general. 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, who have initiated a number of preventive measures to curb trafficking of illegal drugs.