

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1912

ANSWERED ON:17.12.2013

SYNTHETIC DRUG USERS

Jeyadural Shri S. R.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growing number of synthetic drug users is a matter of grave concern as use of such drugs is reflected in their seizure rates;

(b) if so, whether synthetic drugs are more harmful than traditional ones;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether according to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), an Amphetamine-Type Stimulation (ATS) is the largest narcotics problem faced by most nations and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Narcotics control Bureau has extended full co-operation to the UNODC and if so, the details and further efforts made by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a): The data on users of narcotics drugs is not maintained at Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB). However, seizures of synthetic drugs as reported to NCB during the last three years are at Annexure 'A'.

(b) & (c): No, Madam, NCB does not have any specific documented information. As per the open source reports, it appears that synthetic drugs are more harmful than traditional drugs. The traditional drugs are plant based whereas synthetic drugs are obtained from chemical process.

(d): No, Madam, According to World Drug Report, 2012, Cannabis remained the world's most widely used illicit substance whereas Amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) remain second only to Cannabis.

(e): Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) is the Nodal/central agency for implementation of the India's obligation under various international conventions. Narcotics Control Bureau has always extended its co-operation to the UNODC. As a signatory to the various international conventions on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS), India is under obligation to submit the required information to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and International Narcotic Control Board (INCB) in the prescribed formats. NCB submits a monthly report to the UNODC and INCB on NDPS seizures made in the country. As and when any clandestine laboratory manufacturing illicit ATS is dismantled, a complete report is forwarded to INCB and any new modus operandi detected in the process is highlighted to the world community.

Many operations like Operation Eagle Eye, Project Prism, Project Cohesion are in coordination with UNODC, Vienna.