

**SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI:** When I asked for Mr. Hota's cooperation, I do not mean that even if he cooperates, we will carry on with the project. We require the cooperation of the people there., I asked for his cooperation only because he may feel that there can be some other ways to carry on the project by which we can convince the people. Now, the hon. Member has raised certain objections. We do not want to carry on with this project if there is an objection from the people. We do not want to hurt the religious sentiments of anyone and that is why, we have completely stopped the work. As far as the question of rich mineral deposits is concerned, with the support of the people there, we have to see as to whether we can revive this project or not. This is the matter which we can discuss. As I said earlier, in deference to the wishes of the people and the opinion of the State Government, we have banned this project and therefore, we should not be blamed. We will not do anything. If the people do not want it to be revived, we will not revive. We will give the highest respect to the people. But when the question of employment and utilisation of mineral resources comes, I would like to have the cooperation of the hon. Members

coming from that region to explore as to whether or not it is possible to revive the project without hurting the sentiments of the people and without affecting the environment and other factors which the hon. Member has referred.

[Translation]

#### Persons Arrested Under Drug Trafficking

\*702. DR. BENGALI SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested for drug-trafficking during the last one year, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the details of action taken against them; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

(a) and (b). The number of persons arrested for drug trafficking during 1989 and 1990 (upto 31.3.1990) in the various States/Union Territories, as reported to the Narcotics Control Bureau are as follows:

Name of State/UT	1989	1990
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	639	15
Andaman & Nicobar	9	-
Arunachal Pradesh	1	2
Assam	46	-
Bihar	57	*572 (*combined figure for U.P. & Bihar).
U. P.	908	

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1	2	3
Chandigarh	34	160
Delhi	409	172
Goa	31	39
Gujarat	87	4
Haryana	161	63
Himachal Pradesh	66	13
Jammu & Kashmir	70	25
Karnataka	242	-
Kerala	154	-
Madhya Pradesh	94	11
Maharashtra	599	59
Manipur	194	15
Mizoram	65	10
Nagaland	14	14
Orissa	12	1
Pondicherry	6	-
Punjab	116	16
Rajasthan	63	5
Tamil Nadu	1279	5
West Bengal	123	20
Meghalaya	6	-
Tripura	-	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>5485</b>	<b>1223</b>

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All cases of drug seizures and arrests are investigated by the concerned enforcement agencies and on completion of investigations, prosecution is launched under the NDPS Act, 1985 in appropriate courts.

(c) Does not arise.

**DR. BENGALI SINGH:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in 1989, 5485 persons were arrested for drug trafficking and in the first three months of 1990, 1223 persons were arrested. May I know from the hon. Minister as to how many of those arrested were gang leaders and the action taken against them?

**SHRI ANIL SHASTRI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem of drug-trafficking is an extremely serious one and everybody is concerned about it. But I would like to give an assurance that the investigating agencies assigned to check it, are doing their job properly. If you look at the figures you will find that though the number of seizures have gone up, yet there has been a steady fall in the quantity seized over the years. As desired by the hon. Member, I have got with me the figures for different drugs, which are as follows:- in 1989, 4855 kilograms of opium was seized and 1958 cases were registered; in the first three months of 1990, 229 kilograms of opium was seized and 157 cases were registered; morphine - 25 kilograms and two cases; heroin - 137 kilo-grams and 637 cases; ganja - 313 kilograms and 4439 cases and hashish - 288 kilograms and 807 cases, it is a very long list.

**MR. SPEAKER:** If the list is long, you may lay it on the Table of the House.

**SHRI ANIL SHASTRI:** I shall lay it on the Table of the House.

**DR. BENGALI SINGH:** Sir, I have sought the details of the action taken against the arrested persons and the number of Indians and foreigners amongst them.

**SHRI ANIL SHASTRI:** Sir, special courts have been set up to take up cases against the arrested persons. I have given the infor-

mation about the number of persons arrested but as regards the number of gang-leaders and foreigners among them, I shall send the information separately in writing to him.

**SHRI. J. P. AGARWAL:** Sir, a large number of people are addicted to drugs, such as ganja and smack. Youngsters even go to the extent of selling their household items to keep up their habit. It is a matter of shame that smack is peddled openly under police protection. What is the reason for this?.... (Interruptions)..... The anomaly in the system is that it takes a long time to process such cases and it is only after 5-7 years that these cases are committed for trial in court. May I know from the hon. Minister if the Government proposes to frame a law under which such cases are committed for trial in court within six months so that it acts as a deterrent to other drug traffickers.

**SHRI ANIL SHASTRI:** The law provides for special courts to deal with such cases.

[English]

**SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARDHANAN:** In the list of number of persons arrested for drug trafficking, Tamil Nadu tops the list with 1279 arrests. I would like to know from the hon. Minister if it is due to the Sri Lankan militants, mostly LTTE people, who are crossing over to Tamil Nadu unauthorisedly, without any passport or visa. How many out of the people arrested in Tamil Nadu belong to LTTE? What law do we have to impinge upon these unauthorised foreigners?

Second part of my question is, has the Tamil Nadu Government approached the Central Government for giving assistance to cope up with the LTTE militants who are involved in the drug trafficking?

**SHRI ANIL SHASTRI:** Sir, there is no particular reason as to why the number of cases in 1989 were more in Tamil Nadu, The Tamilians who have come from Sri Lanka

are in no way linked with the drug trafficking. In fact I would like to inform the hon. Member that basically drug trafficking is from three areas. One is the Golden Crescent area—which is the border area of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran—which involves the trafficking of Heroin and Hashish. Then we have Golden Triangle area comprising of Burma, Laos and Thailand from where the trafficking of Hashish and Ganja takes place. Hashish and Ganja also come from Nepal to same extent. So, I would like to say that it is not for any particular reason that the figure that has been indicated in the Statement which was laid on the Table of the House is more in case of Tamil Nadu. I don't think that the Tamilians who are running from Sri Lanka have got to do anything with it.

I would also like to say that Government is taking all measures to ensure that it is stopped. As I said, with regard to Golden Crescent area, we have an Indo-Pak Committee which meets alternately in India and Pakistan. But I regret to inform the House that the decisions taken in this Committee are not being implemented by Pakistan. As far as efforts are concerned, I would like to inform the House that even the Interpol has acknowledged the success of the Indian agencies.

**SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARDHAN:** Sir, he has not answered as to how many LTTE persons, who have crossed the border from Sri Lanka and are involved in drug trafficking, have been arrested.

**SHRI ANIL SHASTRI:** I am replying much more than what you have asked.....(*Interruptions*)..... I would like to quote what the Interpol has stated in its general assembly session held in 1989. It has stated that almost 70 per cent of Heroin of South West Asian origin seized in the European countries during 1988 came along the Balkan route and the same trend continued during 1989. The increasing volume of traffic in the westerly direction along the Balkan route and the corresponding decline in the easterly direction towards India has been attributed in the Interpol report, inter

alia, to the strengthening of enforcement arrangements in India.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, drugs were previously sold in the market only but now agents of drug pedlars are present in schools and college campuses also. In this way, the youth of this country is being made addict. I would like to know whether steps are being taken to check drug abuse in schools and colleges.

**SHRI ANIL SHASTRI:** I have said that the Government is doing its best. I agree that it is a serious problem. The Government takes action against drug-pedlars.

This problem has nothing to do with the LTTE. There are 15 Sri Lankans out of the 1279 persons arrested in Tamil Nadu.

[*English*]

**SHRI ANIL SHASTRI:** What I had stated earlier was this. It has no link with the LTTE. Only 15 Sri Lankans have been arrested out of 1279.

**SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG:** Have the drug-trafficking routes in the North-eastern region been identified? Out of the arrested persons, how many belong to high officials of the para-military forces?

**SHRI ANIL SHASTRI:** As I have stated earlier, the northeastern region is a golden triangle area. Certain instances of drug-trafficking have come to our notice. According to the figures given there, in Meghalaya, there were six cases in 1989; in Tripura, there were two cases in 1990. So, the menace is not as much here as it is in other parts of the country. In Tripura, there was nothing last year; two cases have come to our notice this year.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Question Hour is over.