

but are in use have.....(*Interruptions*)
Kurien Sahab had mentioned about it.

I was saying that doctors here prescribe medicines and drugs keeping in view the climate our country. It is not that they will not prescribe the banned drugs. There is a ban on D.D.T. in other countries, but we spray D.D.T. in our country. Similarly, there are certain other drugs also, but I do not have details about them at present. But if the Hon. Member wants, he would be furnished the information.

[*English*]

SHRI S. M. BHATTAM : Whenever the Government finds the drugs of sub-standard quality, apart from taking action against the manufacturers and stockists, etc. What is that they do with the stock? Do they seize it or destroy it? Does the stockist continue to sell the drug?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : It is destroyed.

SHRI S. M. BHATTAM : What is the total value of the drugs which were destroyed in the last three years?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : That figure is not available with me.

People Affected by Drug Abuse

*127. **SHRI N. DENNIS :** Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have conducted or propose to conduct any survey on the nature and extent of abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances at the national level with particular reference to the people affected by it and those vulnerable to drug abuse; and

(b) whether Government have taken proper steps with the co-opera-

tion of Ministries of Information and Broadcasting and Health and Family Welfare to formulate programmes, for concrete publicity and imparting education on the harmful effects of such drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR : (a) 11 research studies in the field of alcoholism and drug abuse were sponsored by the Ministry of Social and Women's Welfare through universities and other educational institutions. Fresh studies in nine university centres have recently been sponsored and are likely to be completed by the middle of 1986.

(b) Yes, Sir. A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

The Government has been continuously making efforts to educate people about the evils of drinking and drug abuse by publicity through mass communication media and also by encouraging voluntary organisations through grants for educative publicity.

Sponsored radio programmes entitled "NAYA SAVERA" and "AKHIR KYON" have been launched to disseminate message against drinking and drug abuse.

For the direct benefit of the student community, essay and debate competitions against drinking and drug abuse have been sponsored by the Ministry at University level.

To make the publicity more interesting, TV play competitions have been sponsored by the Ministry in the Universities coresponding to 9 regional TV stations. Cash prizes of the value of Rs. 5,000/-, Rs. 3,000/- and Rs. 2,000/- have been offered to the top three prize winning teams in each

region. Besides, a grant in aid of Rs. 5,000/- has been offered to each host University. The top two prize winning plays in each region will be recorded and televised.

The State Governments/UT Administrations have been impressed upon to request the University authorities to mount a special vigil against dinking and drug abuse in the University campuses/hostels. It has been further requested that whenever information regarding the abuse of these drugs in educational institutions comes to their notice, the law enforcement agencies in the State may be promptly informed. The State Government have also been requested to undertake mass educational and motivational programmes so that the people could be weaned away from the habit of consumption of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

To ensure co-ordination among the concerned Ministries/Departments, an Inter-Ministerial Group has been constituted by the Ministry to review and monitor the drug abuse situation in the country and to advise on the measures that may be required in the field. The representatives from the Ministries of Health & Family Welfare, Finance, Home Affairs, I & B and Education are member of the group.

SHRI N. DENNIS, Abuse of drugs has become a world wide menace. It is on the increase and a serious situation is created in our country too. It has greatly eroded our educational institutions. In the answer only educative and persuasive approach alone is mentioned. That alone cannot be taken as an effective step to prevent this menace. Easy availability of harmful drugs, mild punishment given for smuggling of drugs, multiplicity of legislation to deal with the menace and the loopholes therein aggravated the spread of this menace to this magnitude in our country. So, may I know whether a comprehensive legislation at the nation-

nal level would be enacted at the earliest for effective prevention of these harmful drugs and medicines? Whether drugs which are harmful and without medicinal value would be prohibited.

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRA-SEKHAR : There is going to be a comprehensive legislation on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances which will tighten the existing controls and substantially increase penalties. This is under the consideration of Finance Ministry.

SHRI N. DENNIS : A national policy to check this menace effectively is highly necessary. So, may I know whether an integrated National Advisory Board would be constituted with Social Welfare Minister or Health Minister as Chairperson or Chairman and also whether unauthorised channelling and selling of drugs would be prevented effectively?

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRA-SEKHAR : Regarding the National Advisory Committee, we have an inter-ministerial committee set up towards the end of last year.

Since the Ministry of Social and Women's Welfare is the nodal Ministry, we have the responsibility. Representatives of other Ministries are also there in this committee.

We have been having frequent meetings. Just few days back also one meeting was held.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Minister may be aware that Hippies in Goa create a lot of menace by taking all sorts of narcotic drugs and other substances and they move naked in the villages of Anjuna and Vagator. I would like to know whether the Government has considered this special aspect and have taken any measures to cure this menace so that the local people and their culture is not affected.

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRA-SEKHAR : The law enforcement agency is tackling this problem and they do not allow any such thing come into the country, and if anybody is found indulging in such activities, action is taken against him.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Sir, will the Hon. Minister kindly answer whether the Government has received any information that the young students in universities, particularly the medical students are addicted to narcotic drugs because of its easy availability from various dispensaries and outdoor departments.

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRA-SEKHAR : As I said in replies, which have been laid on the Table of the House, study that was made clearly shows that it is not very predominant in our universities. The study was mainly centred round the universities. We are having a repeat studies are made at the same places to find out how much improvement has been there. We are concerned more not only about the students where the drugs can be abused but also about the industrial areas and other sectors.

New Railway Line between Chengannur and Trivandrum

*128. **PROF. P.J. KURIEN :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a survey has been conducted for the construction of a new broad gauge Railway line from Chengannur to Trivandrum;

(b) if so, when the survey would be completed; and

(c) the details thereof.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) The survey is in progress.

(b) The survey is likely to be completed in 1986.

(c) This new line is being surveyed via Kottarakara as an alternative to direct doubling via Quilon.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, I am happy that the survey is in progress but the Ministry is aware of the complaint from the State of Kerala that adequate consideration is not given to the legitimate demands of Kerala. Railways should be an instrument for minimising regional imbalances. The national average kilometres of railway line is ten whereas in Kerala it is four kilometres only. That means we are not having even 50 per cent of the share we should have. I would like to know the reason for this kind of step-motherly attitude towards Kerala and also whether the Minister will reconsider his present stand of not allowing any new lines to the State of Kerala.

SHRI BANSI LAL : There is no discrimination against Kerala. The line survey is in progress and as soon as the report comes, we will take that into consideration.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Since the line survey is in progress, I would like to ask a specific question that once the survey is completed, is the Hon. Minister prepared to take up the construction of this railway line.

SHRI BANSI LAL : I Cannot commit at this stage.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : I would like to know what proposals are there before the Union Government from the Government of Kerala regarding construction of new lines in Kerala.

SHRI BANSI LAL : This does not arise out of this question.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Question Hour is over now.