

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Friday, May 11, 1973/Vaisakha 21,
1995 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Smuggling of Hallucinatory Drugs into India By Foreign Nationals

*1061. SHRI RANABAHADUR SINGH :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased
to state:

(a) whether Government have noticed
that hallucinatory drugs are being smug-
gled into India by foreign nationals; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government
to prevent such smuggling and the suc-
cess achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R.
GANESH): (a) The Government have not
received any report regarding smuggling
of hallucinatory drugs into India by foreign
nationals.

(b) Import of hallucinatory drugs such as
LSD, LSD-25, DMT, STP, DET, Mescaline
etc. into India has been prohibited except
for the limited purpose of their use in med-
ical or scientific research.

Intelligence is collected regarding smug-
glers. The baggage of the persons suspect-
ed to carry contraband drugs is subjected
to examination by the Customs Officers.

SHRI RANABAHADUR SINGH: It is
often reported that though hallucinatory
drugs in their purified form are definitely
not smuggled into this country, it is com-
mon knowledge that these drugs in their
rough form are smuggled in substantial
amounts into the country from Nepal bor-
der. May I ask the Government whether any
such information reached them and if so,
what steps are being taken to counteract
them?

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SHRI K. R. GANESH: Since the ques-
tion referred to hallucinatory drugs, tech-
nically, the drugs which I have indicated
in part (b) of the question do not relate
to the general drugs which come under
the definition of narcotics. So we have given
this reply that we have received no infor-
mation. But, as far as the question of nar-
cotics is concerned Government is aware
that from Nepal border there has been
some smuggling of it and various steps have
been taken to check this.

SHRI RANABAHADUR SINGH: What
steps are being taken to see that such drugs
coming from Nepal are stopped?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: The whole Nepal
border is functioning under a Preventive
Collectorate and the State Government staff
as well as the Customs and Excise staff have
been strengthened and sufficient equip-
ments necessary have been provided. There
is a regular Check. Help of C. R. P. is
being taken for the purpose.

SHRI MUHAMMED KHUDA BUKSH:
Are Government aware or have they made
attempts to discover the legitimate use of
these highly sophisticated and hallucinatory
drugs?

MR. SPEAKER: Highly sophisticated?

SHRI MUHAMMAD KHUDA BUKHSH:
The question was asked by my predecessor
if smuggling is taking place, in the Nepal
border which he admitted. He said it did
take place in Nepal border. But the drugs
that he had named DMT, STP, etc. are
sophisticated drugs.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI MUHAMMED KHUDA BUKHSH :
Did Government know the legitimate uses
of these drugs?

MR. SPEAKER: How does it arise out
of this? The main question is about pre-
vention of smuggling. If you want to ask
about sophisticated drugs, you may give a
separate notice and address your question
to the Health Minister.

SHRI MOHANRAJ KALINGARAYAR:
More than smuggling through the border
areas large scale of smugglings take place
through the international airports such as
Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi.

AN HON MEMBER: And Madras.

SHRI MOHANRAJ KALINGARAYAR: . . . and Madras Sorry for the omission. Has the Minister got any complaints of these regular drugs smuggling taking place? How many has he caught? What action has been taken against them?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: The question is no longer confined to hallucinatory drugs. As far as hallucinatory drugs are concerned, as I have said, we have very few seizures of them thereby. I have indicated that there is no large-scale smuggling of this thing. As far as the general question of drugs and the general question of narcotics are concerned, as far as these airports are concerned, many have been caught that is, in respect of taking drugs outside the country etc. We are the largest producer of opium and 80 per cent of world's opium is produced in our own country which is catering to medicinal and other uses. Very strict watch is being kept on various international airports.

MR. SPEAKER: You may answer only about hallucinatory drugs.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: I have got figures of all dangerous drugs.

MR. SPEAKER: You see, that is the reason. If the Minister goes out of the scope, I cannot get hold of the question, and come back on the right track. The question was asked about hallucinatory drugs. If you have got information about this drug only, you can say, this is the information. . . .

SHRI K. R. GANESH: Sir, we have had only two seizures so far about these hallucinatory drugs. We have had only two seizures. There is no other information with me.

SHRI S. B. GIRI: Sir, the Minister has stated that the smuggling goes on but still preventive measures are taken. I want to know what is the total amount of smuggling that takes place from Nepal border in spite of the preventive measures?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: It is very difficult to quantify the extent of smuggling that takes place.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Sir, smuggling of hallucinatory drugs into India by foreign nationals, mainly hippies, is creating a situation which is spoiling the minds of the youth of the country. Have any steps been taken to stop smuggling by hippies in this country and what are the preventive measures which our government have adopted?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: Hippies will be dealt with when they are caught going against any law of the land including the law of drug control.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY: Sir, has it come to the notice of the government that hallucinatory drugs in crude form are smuggled from Nepal to Delhi and then refined and distributed in university campuses?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: Since he has entered into the realm of hallucination, I have no information on that.

Decline in production of controlled cloth

*1066. **SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:**†
SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of controlled cloth during the first quarter of 1973 has been below the target; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to boost the production?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The shortfall in production is due to the fact that the mills are required to sell controlled cloth at May, 1968 prices, which are said to be uneconomic and also because of power cuts since October, 1972.

The Indian Cotton Mills Federation have issued instructions to individual mills to make good their shortfall in the production of controlled cloth during the period July, 1972 to December, 1972 and January, 1973 to March, 1973 by 30th June, 1973. Non-fulfilment of the shortfall would entail a penalty of Re. 1 per sq. metre. Out of the funds collected by way of penalty, the mills which offer to produce controlled cloth in excess of their obligation will be paid an incentive of 90 paise per sq. metre on the controlled cloth produced by them in excess of their obligation. It is expected that as a result of these measures, production of controlled cloth will improve significantly.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Sir, the minister has taken some steps to increase production. I want to know what is the increase in production month by month from December 1972 to this date? Has he got any figures?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: I have some figures. In January, 1973, it was 14 million sq. m., in February, it was 15.4 million sq. m.; for March, the figure is not available, but I may point out that the production figure is less than the target figure, because according to our understanding they are required to produce 50 million sq. m. per quarter, that is, 200 million sq. m. a year. In terms of that, they have failed to fulfil the target. Between July, 1972 and December, 1972 they have produced only 164 million sq. m. as against a target