

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2147**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19TH MARCH, 2025/ PHALGUNA 28, 1946 (SAKA)

RISING DRUG SEIZURES & SMUGGLING ROUTES

2147 SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) steps Government is taking to prevent drug smuggling along country's coastline as Gujarat has witnessed record-breaking drug seizures in recent years;

(b) the primary smuggling routes for drugs entering Gujarat and the manner in which Government is addressing security vulnerabilities;

(c) measures that are being taken to stop the smuggling of drugs via ports like Mundra and Pipavav, where several major seizures have occurred;

(d) whether there is coordination between Gujarat's law enforcement agencies and central security forces to prevent drug trafficking; and

(e) advanced surveillance technologies that are being deployed to detect and prevent the entry of narcotics via sea routes?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)

(a) to (c) The recent exercise on drug seizures along the Gujarat coastline is a direct result of proactive measures taken by the government to prevent drug smuggling along the coast. The primary responsibility of monitoring security and checking at port lies with Customs & Port Authorities. However, the Government has taken various steps to prevent

smuggling of drugs through maritime routes/ports, some of which are as under: -

- (i) Creation of Multi Agency Maritime Security Group (MAMSG) by National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) under the National Maritime Security Coordinator (NMSC) on 15.11.2021. Two sub-groups have been created under MAMSG as –MSG (Policy) and MSG (Int). NCB is a permanent member of MSG-Int.**
- (ii) National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) in coordination with sister agencies has prepared an SOP on Maritime Security Coordination for anti-smuggling operations in Maritime Zones of India to enhance inter-agency, inter-department and inter-ministerial coordination to plan and progress anti-smuggling operations with respect to contraband goods including Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) and sensitive cargo.**
- (iii) Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) coordinates with agencies like, Navy, Coast Guard & Marine Police to conduct joint operations to control the drug trafficking.**

- (iv) Regular Inspections are conducted by port authorities to ensure that all goods, including containers, are properly inspected and cleared before its release.**
- (v) The Coast Guard is providing training to NCB and Port Authorities to detect and prevent drug trafficking.**
- (vi) A dedicated Anti Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) headed by ADG/IG level Police Officer has been established in each State/UT to function as the NCORD Secretariat for the State/UT and follow-up on compliance of decisions taken in NCORD meetings at different levels.**
- (vii) To monitor the investigation of significant and important drug cases including cases of narco-terrorism, a Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) with DG, NCB as its Chairman has been set up by Govt. of India on 19 July 2019. So far, 09 JCC meetings at the Central level and 08 JCC at the State level have been conducted.**
- (viii) Regular efforts are being made to Increase international cooperation for exchange of information and investigative assistance in administering control over the movement of Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals.**

d) The recent high value seizures off the Gujarat coastline/Ports is the result of the effective measures taken in the field of controlling drug trafficking and drug abuse in India and highlight the successful coordination between Gujarat's law enforcement agencies, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and Indian security forces such as the Indian Coast Guard and the Indian Navy. The Govt. of India has also established a 4-tier Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) mechanism for ensuring better coordination between Central & State Drug Law Enforcement Agencies and other stakeholders in the field of controlling drug trafficking and drug abuse in India.

e) As part of ongoing efforts to curb narcotics trafficking via sea routes, advanced surveillance technologies in form of container scanners have been installed at all major ports in India. This technology will assist in detecting and preventing the entry of narcotics through sea routes.
