

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1991**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 5TH AUGUST, 2026/ SHRAVANA 14, 1948 (SAKA)

SMUGGLING OF NARCOTIC DRUGS

1991. SHRI ANIL KUMAR YADAV MANDADI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that criminal and terror networks are using various apps viz., WhatsApp, Skred and Zangi for arms and narcotics smuggling;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken steps to curb this tech-oriented smuggling/criminal activities; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)**

(a) & (b) During investigation of drug trafficking cases by Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), instances of the use of digital platforms by drug traffickers have come to notice. Investigations have revealed use of digital platforms such as WhatsApp, Telegram, Snapchat, Zangi, Signal and social media platforms by organised drug trafficking syndicates for coordinating procurement, transportation, concealment and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

(c) & (d) To curb technology enabled drug trafficking and other related criminal activities, Government has taken various steps through NCB, some of which are as under:

- (i) Engaged cyber experts to enhance capability to investigate darknet-enabled drug trafficking and cryptocurrency-based transactions.**
- (ii) Capacity building programmes are being conducted on regular basis in collaboration with the United States-Drug Enforcement Administration (US-DEA) and Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU), Gandhinagar for officers of NCB and other Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (DLEAs) to strengthen capabilities in cyber-enabled narcotics investigations, digital forensics, darknet monitoring, cryptocurrency investigations and investigation of technology-enabled drug trafficking.**
