GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2456 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2022

TRAFFICKING OF DRUGS THROUGH RAILWAYS

2456. SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the Railways are the most used mode of trafficking of drugs domestically, if so, whether the Railways has recognised the major routes of drug trafficking domestically;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has launched any special action plan to mitigate the domestic trafficking of drugs through the Railways, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2456 BY SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 21.12.2022 REGARDING TRAFFICKING OF DRUGS THROUGH RAILWAYS

(a) to (c): Railways is one of the modes of trafficking of drugs across the country used by traffickers in illegal trade of Narcotics, Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS). 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and, therefore, State Governments are responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and maintenance of law and order on Railways including drug trafficking through their law enforcement agencies viz. Government Railway Police (GRP)/District Police/ Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)/State Excise etc.

During the years 2020, 2021 and 2022 (upto Nov), 4556 cases have been registered under NDPS Act by concerned Law Enforcing Agencies (LEAs) with arrest of 2125 persons and recovery of Narcotics worth ₹ 66.53 Crores (approx) over Indian Railways.

The areas and routes prone to drug trafficking are dynamic in nature and keep on changing. Based on regular analysis, such vulnerable routes are identified regularly and effective preventive measures taken to control drug trafficking in coordination with all stakeholders.

Indian Railways are making sincere efforts to curb drug trafficking through their network and a focused drive i.e. "Operation NARCOS" is undertaken by RPF to take action against trafficking of Drugs via Railways. The Government of India through its notification no.1403 dated 11.04.2019 has authorized officers of Railway Protection Force to arrest, search and seize

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Narcotics drugs under NDPS Act. The Narcotics drugs seized and suspects arrested by RPF under NDPS Act are handed over to the LEAs empowered to register the cases & investigate them. For review and coordination among various Central and State Agencies, the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) meetings are held periodically.

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