

**MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1959
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 31st JULY, 2015
CULTIVATION OF OPIUM**

1959 Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria

जयन्त सिन्हा
JAYANT SINHA
वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री
Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- a) whether the Government has reviewed the criteria, guidelines, rules and regulations framed and fixed for opium cultivation in country;
- b) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor;
- c) the time elapsed since the last review;
- d) whether Government propose to notify new areas for opium cultivation;
and
- e) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI JAYANT SINHA)**

(a),(b) &(c) Section 9 of the NDPS act, 1985 empowers the Central Government to permit and regulate by rules, the cultivation (such cultivation being only on account of Central Government) of opium poppy. Chapter III (Rules 5 to 30) of the NDPS Rules, 1985 deal with the licensing of opium cultivation. Rule 8, ibid, authorizes the District Opium Officer to issue license's for cultivation of opium poppy subject to the 'general conditions relating to grant of licences notified by the Central Government'. It has been the practice to notify these 'general conditions' every year through a Gazette Notification in the month of September for the crop year commencing from 1st of October and ending 30th September of the succeeding year. The general conditions for grant of opium poppy cultivation license for the crop year 2014-15 issued vide notifications dated 22-09-2014 and 28-11-2014.

(d) & (e) No, Madam. Licit cultivation of opium poppy is carried out in India in selected tracts notified by the Central Government annually in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan