

**Government of Punjab**  
**Office of Secretary Medical Education and Research**  
No.11/5/06-1HBIII/441 Dated 08<sup>th</sup> February, 2006

With reference to Secretary Social Security and Welfare D.O. letter No PS/SSS/W/05-3321 dated 11.11.2005, it is suggested :-

- GOI be approached for amendment of Sec 6 of The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 to provide for setting up the Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substance Consultative Committee at the State Hqrs. as well as the District Hqrs. on the pattern of the Central Committee.
- The State Government should, under Section 7 of the Act *ibid* appoint all Executive Magistrates, Civil Surgeons, Senior Medical Officers etc. with appropriate designations for achieving the purposes of the Act *ibid*.
- On the pattern of National Fund for the Control of Drug Abuse, a State fund should also be created, for which a reference be made to Govt. of India for suitable amendment in Section 7 A of the Act *ibid*. The Govt. of India should be requested to make a firm commitment for devolution of funds from the National Fund to the State Fund. As a step further, a District Fund can also be contemplated.
- The power of the State Government to permit, control and regulate under Section 10 of the Act *ibid* should be effectively exercised under the overall superintendence and control of the proposed State level Committee. Till the time a Committee is constituted at the State level, a core group consisting of C.S., D.G.P., Secretary Health & Family Welfare, Secretary Medical Education & Research, Secretary Higher Education / Technical Education / School Education with the Secretary Youth Services as its Coordinator should be set up for effective combating drug abuse in the State.
- Under Section 41 of the Act, the State Government should authorize officers of Revenue Department, Drug Control, Excise, Police or any other Department to issue warrants of arrest of any person whom he has reason to believe to have committed any offence punishable under the Act *ibid*. Similarly, such officers can be bestowed the powers under Section 42 of the Act *ibid* to enter, search, seize and arrest without warrant or authorization.
- Under Section 53 (2) of the Act *ibid*, the State Government, by notification, should invest officers of Excise, Revenue or Drug Control or any class of officers with the powers of an officer incharge of a police station for investigation of offenses under this Act.
- The Deputy Commissioner of every district must promote and encourage the constitution of atleast one NGO at the district level, consisting of large number of social workers, doctors, lawyers, ex-servicemen, Sports persons, women activists and non-controversial religious preachers to act as watch-dogs in our fight against the drug abuse. Such NGOs can be replicated at the sub-division level.
- Casual and inadequate funding of de-addiction, medication, healthcare and community follow-up of drug abuse victims will not lead us anywhere.
- Public servants and public men established to have been promoting, abetting or colluding with drug mafia should be straight away removed from the positions they hold, and disqualified for holding any responsible post in the Government. A suitable amendment in the Punishment clauses of the Act *ibid* is required for that purpose.
- There is no end to giving more and more suggestions, which does not require much imagination or originality. The need of the hour is politico-executive commitment to the cause, and a ruthless unrelenting enforcement.

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