

# The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985

- A significant number of young people in their productive lives fall pray to drugs and endanger their lives. They are illegally procuring them with very high cost from bad elements of the society. Drug traffic is also associated with many crimes that is why legal regulation was sought.
- The Act provides stringent control and regulation of operations relating to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. It extends to the whole of India. The Act defines Addict, Cannabis-Charas, Ganja, Coca-derivatives and plant, opium, illicit traffic (i.e. cultivating cocca or opium, manufacturing, possessing, sale, purchase, transportation, concealment, use or consumption, import or export etc). The Act provides power to the Central government to add to or omit the list of psychotropic substances, to take measures for preventing and combating abuse of and illicit traffic of narcotic drugs. There is a Consultative Committee to advise the Central Government for the implementation of this Act. The Narcotics Commissioner look after the production of opium. The cocca plant and cocca leaves can be used in the preparation of flavouring agents with the permission of central government. For import of any such drugs required import certificate. No person shall engaged in or control any trade in which a narcotic drug or psychotropic substance is obtained from outside India and supplied to any person staying outside India. Any officer of Gazette rank of the Department of Central Excise, Narcotics, Customs, Revenue intelligence or any other department of the Central Government or of the Border Security Force but superior in rant to a peon, spoy, or a constable, is empowered to search, seize, or arrest any person who is engaged in dealing, sale, manufacturing narcotics, or psychotropic substances or helping other person for the same. Any violation of the Act is punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than ten years but which may extend to twenty years and shall also be liable to fine which shall not be less than one lakh rupees but which may extend to two lakh rupees.

## Reference

The Gazette of India. The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1985. No. 61 of 1985.