

## Provide alternate livelihood to tackle drug menace: CM



**ITANAGAR, Jan 19:** Chief Minister Nabam Tuki today expressed serious concerns over the reported cultivation of opium in at least five districts of the state and subsequent addiction inflicting local populace.

Interacting with officials from Institute of Narcotics Study and Analysis (INSA) and narcotics control department of GoI here today, Tuki strongly suggested alternate ways of livelihood to win away the locals from opium cultivation.

“Opium cultivation is practiced as it yields a profitable income for rural and poor people. With time it has become a tradition as use of opium is traditionally accepted in indigenous rituals and functions. Therefore, we must give them alternate income generation avenues along with awareness to stop this illegal practice,” the CM reasoned.

Hinting at schemes for propagating horticulture and cultivation of marketable cash crops in place of opium, Tuki appealed to the central government authorities to extend financial aid to the GoAP as the state, by itself, was not financially well off to implement such schemes.

On the suggestion for establishment of de-addiction centers

in the state, the CM observed that few already established centers attached to health centers have gone defunct due to lack of equipments, manpower and regular funding.

To remove similar hurdles, he suggested establishment of a model center in one of the most effected areas of the state, may be in Lohit or Anjaw, with all the facilities and required back-up. Once it is successful, other centers on need basis can be set up on similar model.

He further said that the Centre can offer a special package to persons willing to give up opium cultivation and addiction to encourage those genuinely interested to get themselves free from the menace.

“All these measures would be successful when the administration and law enforcing agencies work with synergy,” Tuki observed.

With regard to strong and immediate measures to curb the menace, the CM suggested to make drug-tests mandatory during recruitments in all departments. Its implementation, he said, would drastically bring down drug addiction in youths and subsequently discourage opium as well as ganja cultivation

in the state.

Union finance ministry’s narcotics control director R N Srivastava informed that the Parliament had recently passed a national policy on drug abuse under which funds were available for schemes and programmes to dissuade illegal cultivation of opium and drug abuse.

“We need a comprehensive proposal from the GoAP. Funds will never be a constraint,” he assured.

INSA had earlier conducted a survey on opium cultivation and drug abuse in Arunachal Pradesh under the directives of GoI’s tax & excise department, which indicated an alarming situation particularly in Lohit, Anjaw, Lower Dibang Valley, Changalng and Upper Siang districts.

Based on the survey, it had forwarded four recommendations to the government, including establishment of de-addiction and rehabilitation centers (especially in Lohit and Anjaw districts), alternate developments, strict enforcement of law against illicit cultivation and a scheme to register addicts so that opium can be legally prescribed to them as medicine for treatment. (CMPB)



## CM presses for replacing opium cultivation

### Hints at drug-tests in recruitment to curb addiction

**ITANAGAR, Jan 19:** Chief Minister Nabam Tuki felt the urgency of exploring alternative source of livelihood especially for common people in place of opium cultivation – a practice which has already taken an alarming proportion of local populace in at least five districts of the State.

Expressing serious concern over reported cultivation of opium and subsequent addiction inflicting local populace in at least five districts of the State, the Chief Minister strongly suggested for finding alternate ways of livelihood to lure the people away

from opium cultivation. He was interacting with officials from Institute of Narcotics Study and Analysis (INSA) and Narcotics Control Department, govt of India here today.

“Opium cultivation here is basically practiced as it yields a profitable income for rural and poor people. With time it has become a tradition as use of opium is traditionally accepted in indigenous rituals and functions. Therefore, we must give them alternate ways of income generation along with awareness to stop this illegal practice,” the Chief Minister emphasized.

Hinting at schemes for propagating horticulture and cultivation of marketable cash crops in place of opium, Tuki appealed the Central authorities to extend financial aid to the State govt as the State, by itself, was not financially equipped to implement such schemes.

To the suggestion for establishment of de-addiction centers in the State, the Chief Minister observed that few already established centers, which are attached to health centers, have become defunct due to lack of equipments, manpower and regular funding.

To do away with similar hurdles, he suggested establishment of a model center in one of the most effected areas of the State, may be in Lohit or Anjaw, with all the facilities and required back-up. If it is successful, he said, other centers can be modeled on it and established in all areas on need basis.

He further said that the Centre can offer a special package to persons obliging to give up opium cultivation as well as addiction. This he said will encourage genuine interest in people and addicts to give up the practice.

*(Contd. on P-4)*

## CM presses for replacing opium...

“All these measures would be successful when the administration and law enforcing agencies coordinate and work together,” Tuki pointed.

With regard to strong and immediate measures to curb the menace, the Chief Minister even hinted at making a policy to go for drug-tests during recruitments in all departments. He pointed, if implemented, this would drastically bring down drug addiction in youths and subsequently discourage opium as well as ganja cultivation in the State.

R N Srivastava, Director Narcotics Control, informed that the Parliament had recently passed a National Policy on drug abuse under which funds were available for schemes and programmes to dissuade illegal cultivation of opium and drug abuse.

“We need a comprehensive proposal from the State govt. Funds will never be a constraint,” he assured.

INSA had earlier conducted a survey on opium cultivation and drug abuse in the State under the directives of Tax & Excise department, govt of India, which indicated an alarming situation particularly in the districts of Lohit, Anjaw, Lower Dibang Valley, Changlang and Upper Siang districts.

Based on the survey, it had forwarded four recommendations to the govt that included establishment of de-addiction and rehabilitation centers, especially in Lohit and Anjaw districts, alternate developments, strict enforcement of law against illicit cultivation and a scheme to register addicts so that opium can be legally prescribed to them as medicine for treatment. *(PRO)*

## Opium cultivation worries Tuki

■ PTI

ITANAGAR, JAN 20

ARUNACHAL Pradesh chief minister Nabam Tuki has expressed his concern over cultivation of opium in at least five districts of the state and the resultant addiction among the people.

Interacting with officials from Institute of Narcotics Study and Analysis (INSA) and Narcotics Control department of Government of India on Thursday, Tuki suggested alternate ways of livelihood to lure people away from opium cultivation, official sources said on Friday.

"Opium cultivation here is basically practised as it yields a profitable income for rural and poor people. With time it has become a tradition as use of opium is traditionally accepted in indigenous rituals and functions. Therefore, we must give them alternate ways of income generation along with awareness to stop this illegal practice," Tuki said.

Suggesting schemes for propagating horticulture and cultivation of marketable cash crops in place of opium, Tuki appealed to the central government to extend financial aid to the state government as the state, by itself, was not financially



Reuters

The lure of a quick buck has tempted many in Arunachal to opium cultivation.

equipped to implement such schemes.

To the suggestion for establishment of de-addiction centers in the state, the chief minister said that some established centres, attached to health centers, have gone defunct due to lack of equipments, manpower and regular funding.

To do away with similar hurdles, he suggested establishment of a model centre in one of the most effected areas of the state, may be in Lohit or Anjaw, with all the facilities and required back-up.

If it is successful, he said, other centres can be modeled on it and established in all areas on need basis.

“Opium cultivation here is basically practised as it yields a profitable income for rural and poor people. With time it has become a tradition as use of opium is traditionally accepted in indigenous rituals and functions”

**Nabam Tuki,**

Chief Minister, Arunachal Pradesh



## Tuki for finding alternative to Opium cultivation

ITANAGAR, Jan 19: Chief Minister Nabam Tuki today expressed serious concern over the reported cultivation of opium in at least five districts of the state and subsequent addiction inflicting local populace.

Interacting with officials from Institute of Narcotics Study and Analysis (INSA) and Narcotics Control department of Government of India here today, Tuki strongly suggested alternate ways of livelihood to lure people away from Opium cultivation.

“Opium cultivation here is basically practiced as it yields a profitable income for rural and poor people. With time it has become a tradition as use of opium is traditionally accepted in indigenous rituals and functions. Therefore, we must give them alternate ways of income generation along with awareness to stop this illegal practice,” the Chief Minister emphasized.



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model center in one of the most effected areas of the state, may be in Lohit or Anjaw, with all the facilities and required back-up. If it is successful, he said, other centers can be modeled on it and established in all areas on need basis.

He further said that the Center can offer a special package to persons obliging to give up opium cultivation as well as addiction. This, he said, will encourage genuine interest in people and addicts to give up the practice.

“All these measures would be successful when the administration and law enforcing agencies coordinate and work together,” Tuki pointed. (Contd. P-3)

## Tuki for finding...

(From P-1) With regard to strong and immediate measures to curb the menace, the Chief Minister even suggested making it a policy to go for drug-tests during recruitments in all departments. If implemented, this would drastically bring down drug addiction in youths and subsequently discourage opium as well as Ganja cultivation in the state, Tuki said.

R N Srivastava, Director Narcotics Control, Union Ministry of Finance, informed that the Parliament had recently passed a National Policy on drug abuse under which funds are made available for schemes and programmes to dissuade illegal cultivation of opium and drug abuse.

"We need a comprehensive proposal from the state government. Funds will never be a constraint," he assured.

INSA had earlier conducted a survey on opium cultivation and drug abuse in the state under the directives of Tax & Excise department, Government of India, which indicated an alarming situation particularly in the districts of Lohit, Anjaw, Lower Dibang Valley, Changlang and Upper Siang districts. Based on the survey, it had forwarded four recommendations to the government which included establishment of de-addiction and rehabilitation centers, especially in Lohit and Anjaw districts, alternate developments, strict enforcement of law against illicit cultivation and a scheme to register addicts so that opium can be legally prescribed to them as medicine for treatment.

Later in the day, BRO officers of Project Arunank and Brahmanak called on the Chief Minister and apprised him of road projects being implemented by them in the state.

Tuki reiterated his suggestion for evolving a working calendar with respect to implementation of projects in Arunachal. While emphasizing on completion of projects on time, he expressed concern over complaints arising against the organization not only from within the state but also from Union Ministries and central government agencies.

"If you do not complete projects on time while maintaining quality, the state government has to bear the brunt," he pointed out. Offering cooperation by his government, Tuki said he expects same kind of response from the BRO.

Besides discussing the status of various projects being undertaken by Project Arunank and Project Brahmanak with respective Chief Engineers A K Goyal and S K Pandey, Tuki also urged them to recruit as many local people as possible from project affected areas. The interaction was also joined by Rural Development Minister Tanga Byaling, Commissioner PWD and Chief Engineer Highways.