

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Communicated to the
Council and the Members
of the League.

C.39.M.39.1944.XI.
(O.C/A.R.1941/50)
(Issued in English only)

Geneva, November 18th, 1944.

TRAFFIC IN OPIUM AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS.

ANNUAL REPORTS BY GOVERNMENTS FOR 1941.

MAURITIUS.

Communicated by the Government of the United Kingdom.

Note by the Acting Secretary-General.

In accordance with Article 21 of the Convention of 1931 for limiting the Manufacture and regulating the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs, the Acting Secretary-General has the honour to communicate the above-mentioned report to the parties to the Convention. The report is also communicated to other States and to the Advisory Committee on Traffic in Opium and other Dangerous Drugs.

(For the form of annual reports, see document O.C.1600.)

A. GENERAL.

I. Laws and Publications.

No new legislation bearing on opium and other dangerous drugs was enacted in 1941.

No stock of coca leaves was seized during the year.

II. Administration.

The legislation passed in 1938 is being enforced.

III. Control of International Trade.

The international trade is controlled by the import certificate system, which has worked satisfactorily during 1941.

V. Illicit traffic.

The cultivation of the opium poppy (*Papaver Somniferum*), the gandia plant and any other plant of the genus of the Erythroxylaceae from which cocaine can be derived, is strictly prohibited by law.

Raw opium and Indian hemp (locally known as gandia) are the only narcotic drugs which are known to be illicitly imported into the Colony.

Opium is smuggled into the Colony by the crews of certain vessels from the Far East. The police and Customs authorities combine their efforts in reducing to a minimum the quantity thus illicitly imported. The arrivals and departures of vessels are closely watched by the police. Gandia is being cultivated secretly in the Colony.

The smoking of opium is confined to the town of Port Louis the part known as the Chinese quarter, and is indulged in by Chinese and a few Mauritians. The suspected opium dens, which are not more than 4 in number, are occasionally raided by the police. Gandia is smoked by a certain number of the Indian community.

There is no evidence that other narcotic drugs are made use of.

52 persons in all were prosecuted for violation of the narcotic drugs laws:-

| | | | | | |
|---|---------|-----|------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| 8 | persons | for | possession | of | opium |
| 2 | " | " | smoking | " | " |
| 2 | " | " | permitting | premises | to be used for opium smoking |
| 2 | " | " | possession | of | pipes for opium smoking. |

In these cases, 52 grammes of opium were seized and destroyed. The pipes were also destroyed.

Fourteen persons were prosecuted for possession of gandia and four were prosecuted for cultivating gandia. 152 grammes of gandia were seized and destroyed.

The punishments imposed ranged between 15 days' and 12 months' imprisonment with hard labour, and the fines inflicted ranged between Rs.10 and Rs.1000.

Owing to the difficulty of supply, opium is sold at Rs.600 per kilogramme and retailed at Rs.1000 per kilogramme. Gandia is retailed in very small quantities at 25 cents per gramme.

C. MANUFACTURED DRUGS.

X. Internal control of manufactured Drugs.

The pharmacy trade has given rise to no complaint.
