

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Communicated to the  
Council and the Members  
of the League.

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(Issued in English only)

Geneva, July 9th, 1945.

TRAFFIC IN OPIUM AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS.

ANNUAL REPORTS BY GOVERNMENTS FOR 1944.

MAURITIUS

Communicated by the Government of the United Kingdom.

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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).

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A. GENERAL

I. Laws and Publications.

No new legislation bearing on opium and other dangerous drugs was enacted during 1944.

2. Recent minor events have shown that the legislation on dangerous drugs must be simplified and made more effective. With this end in view, a draft consolidation ordinance has been submitted to the Legal Adviser of the Government and it is hoped that the new legislation will go through all its stages in the course of the year.

3. No stock of coca leaves was seized during the year.

II. Administration.

There is nothing new to report under this heading.

III. Control of International Trade.

The international trade is controlled by the import certificate system which has worked satisfactorily during the year under review.

## V. Illicit Traffic.

The illicit traffic in opium and gandia (which are the only narcotics known to be ~~illicitly~~ imported into the colony) for smoking purposes is on the decrease and no legislation was passed during the year under review.

The routine measures already described in reports for preceding years have been maintained.

2. 22 persons were prosecuted for violation of the narcotic drugs laws:-

- 6 persons for smoking opium;
- 9 persons for possession of prepared or raw opium;
- 6 persons for possession of pipes and utensils for smoking opium;
- 1 person for aiding and abetting opium smokers;
- 8 persons for possession of gandia;
- 1 person for cultivating gandia.

363 grammes of prepared opium, 45 grammes of raw opium, 153 grammes of gandia and 17 gandia plants were seized and destroyed.

The fines inflicted ranged from 1 month's to 9 months' imprisonment with hard labour, and the fines imposed ranged from Rs 25/- to Rs 300/-

3. Six cases of illicit importation of dangerous drugs have been recorded during the year, viz: 4 cases of illicit import of opium and 2 cases of illicit import of gandia.

3 persons, Chinese members of the crews of merchantmen, who were found in possession of illicitly imported opium, were fined Rs 12/-, Rs 50/- and Rs 230/- respectively by the Comptroller of Customs. The small quantity of opium seized was destroyed, with the exception of 230 grammes of raw opium which have been used by the Government Chemist, after analysis, in the preparation of 2.518 grammes of Tincture Opii. This preparation has been added to the stocks held by the Government for non-Government purposes.

12 grammes and 180 grammes of gandia respectively were found on board vessels in harbour. In the first case, the master was fined Rs 25/- by the Comptroller of Customs. In both cases, the gandia seized was destroyed.

There is no material change in the prices at which illicitly imported or illicitly locally-grown drugs are retailed.

## B. RAW MATERIALS

There has been no change in the conditions described under this head during the year under review.

C. MANUFACTURED DRUGS.

4. Trade and Distribution.

Owing to pressure of work only one inspection of pharmacies was made during the year under review.

In the course of the inspection, it was found that one pharmacist had neglected to keep his Register of Dangerous Drugs to date. The pharmacist was prosecuted and fined Rs 100/- and costs.

2. The case of the pharmacist who, amongst other things, had failed to produce a certain part of his stocks of dangerous drugs, which was reported last year to be sub judice, has been disposed of, the pharmacist involved being fined Rs 250/- and costs for having supplied dangerous drugs to persons not authorised to be in possession of the drugs.

April 4th, 1945.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
MAURITIUS.

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