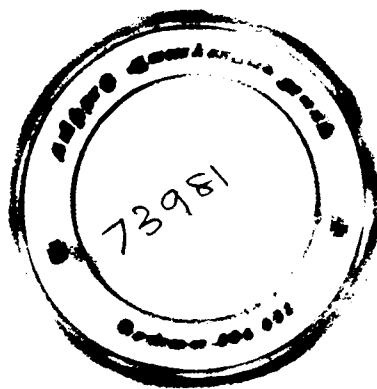

**SUMMARY OF REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ON THE ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN DANGEROUS DRUGS
FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 1937.**

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N37



Summary of report by the Government of India on the illicit traffic in dangerous drugs for the calendar year 1937.

Question 1.—*Please give a general account of the illicit traffic in the country in the course of the past year indicating the origin from which the substances have most often been found to be derived—whether by diversion from legitimate channels, with special reference to the points at which the substances were diverted into the illicit traffic, or from clandestine manufacture or production, marks and labels which recur, the routes most frequently followed by contraband the methods most frequently used by smugglers.*

Illicit import traffic.—Charas, cocaine and opium were the principal articles of smuggling. Charas was smuggled into India from across the Peshawar border by transborder Pathans or through the tribal territory in Kohat Pass. The drug was obtained by the traffickers from Kashgar in Chinese Turkistan. The Garra charas which was of inferior quality was also smuggled from Gardez in Afghanistan. The contraband was usually sent by means of railway parcels under fictitious descriptions or hidden in passengers' luggage or on their person. The imports of contraband charas into the Punjab and the North West Frontier Province have diminished to a great extent on account of the prohibition imposed by the Chinese Government on cultivation of hemp plant in Central Asia and export of charas. The illicit through traffic in charas, however, continued as in some provinces the duty on charas was very high and some provinces were maintaining a policy of prohibition.

Cocaine entered India mainly by the ports of Calcutta and Bombay. The ships on which the drug was seized arrived from the Far East and the route followed was generally Osaka, Kobe, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Singapore, Penang and Rangoon. The source of supply was believed to be either Japan or China. The trade was mainly in the hands of Chinese who sold it in small quantities to hawkers. The contraband was hidden usually on the persons of the crew, in the engine rooms of launches or among the cargo. At times the drug is smuggled in sealed tins attached under water to the hull of a steamer. It is not possible to state with any accuracy the origin of the drug seized in illicit traffic as the labels and wrappers, etc., seized on the containers were patent forgeries of genuine labels and, where labels, etc., were not available, the carriers of the drug seldom gave correct information as to the source of its supply.

Smuggling routes and methods of smuggling were the same as reported in the Summary for 1934. In the case of smuggling by rail, it was observed that there was a tendency to use small wayside stations for despatch and receipt of the contraband. The illicit import of Afghan opium into the N.-W. F. Province during the year continued unabated owing to poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and tribal areas. Contraband opium could be had for Rs. 35 to 40 per seer, whereas licit opium was retailed in the Province at Rs. 100 per seer. Opium was also smuggled into the Province from Kaya Khabal (Tribal Territory) on the Hazara border. As in the preceding years, there was a considerable amount of illicit traffic in opium in Assam during the year 1937. The illicit opium was smuggled into the Province from the unadministered territories along the North-East Frontier, China, Nepal, Hill Tippera and the Trans-Patkai Rangpang area beyond the Sadiya Frontier Tract. The Tibetan and Bhutanese traders come to Darjeeling via Sikkim with their commodities for sale and it is suspected that they smuggle opium along with merchandise.

Seizures of Nepali ganja in several districts bordering on Nepal indicates that smuggling of contraband drug still takes place on an extensive scale. Most of the illicit ganja—either cultivated, semi-cultivated or wild—smuggled into Assam came from Bhutan and Manipur and also from Hill Tippera, the Naga Hills, the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and the Lushai Hills. The Bhutias generally take recourse to illicit traffic in ganja when they come down in the winter season for trading purposes.

Illicit export traffic.—There was practically no illicit outward traffic in cocaine, morphia or hemp drugs. Owing to the control taken over the accumulated stocks of opium in certain Indian States and restriction of poppy cultivation both in British India and Indian States, India is no longer a source of supply for illicit raw opium in the Far East. Opium and ganja were smuggled from the Madras Presidency into Ceylon largely through French territory. As a result of preventive measures taken both in India and Ceylon, this illicit traffic received a severe set-back. It was, however, feared by the Ceylon Government that the Ceylon smugglers were seeking new sources of supply and arranging to get the contraband from new agents in Calcutta. The matter was brought to the notice of the Excise and Police authorities in Calcutta so that concerted action could be taken by them in collaboration with the Customs Department to prevent the growth of any such contraband traffic from that city. The proposal to issue to Indian States opium with an ear-marking substance so as to facilitate identification is still under the consideration of the Government of India.

Inter-provincial smuggling.—This traffic was chiefly confined to ganja, charas, cocaine and opium. Charas was imported mostly from the North-West Frontier Province and the Punjab, to which it found its way from Central Asia. The prohibition of charas consumption in certain areas and large variations in duty on charas in various provinces stimulated inter-provincial smuggling of charas. Local Governments are taking action in the matter by strengthening their preventive staffs or by allowing the use of the drug or by reducing the rate of duty on the drug. The illicit traffic in charas in the Central Provinces was checked to some extent by opening of two shops in the province in the year 1935 and as a further check the number of shops was increased to 8 in the year under report. Other factors contributing to the decrease in smuggling were the difficulty smugglers were experiencing in getting a good quality of drug and the deterrent punishment inflicted in the past.

All the cocaine found in the illicit market was of foreign origin. Calcutta imported for practically all consuming areas in India and Bombay for local needs. When stocks were low, Bombay received supplies from Calcutta or from one of the inland centres, like Delhi or Peshawar. Delhi, Amritsar, Peshawar, Ajmer, Cawnpore, Benares, Allahabad, Patna and Dacca were the chief centres in British India and Jaipur, Tonk, Kotah, Ujjain, Indore and Rampur in the States. The Peshawar district, where certain leading smugglers of all-India notoriety reside, was a centre for the distribution of cocaine throughout India.

Opium was obtained by the illicit trade in India chiefly from the Rajputana Malwa tract on account of the cheaper rates and the facility with which the drug could be obtained there. Owing to the strict watch kept over the licensed cultivators and vendors of opium in British India, cases of the leakage of excise opium were few and far between.

Methods employed and routes followed by smugglers.—Smugglers seldom carried the drugs themselves. They employed carriers, males as well as

females, and therefore seldom figured as accused. The carriers generally travelled by rail. Sometimes they got down at some road-side station and travelled on foot or in specially hired taxis. Oil cloth and scents were mostly used to suppress the smell of the drugs. In order to evade detection the smugglers usually despatched the contraband drugs by means of railway parcels under fictitious descriptions and addressed to bogus persons. As a result of the facilities offered by the opening up of trunk roads in recent years, a large percentage of the contraband trade is now being conveyed by motor vehicles. Elaborate precautions are taken to conceal the drug behind the upholstery or in false roofs of motor cars.

Question 2.—Please give in the case of countries where the opium poppy, the coca plant and Indian hemp are cultivated and are subject to control information regarding any important changes as regards the extent of illicit cultivation, the districts where such cultivation exists, the quantities of the products estimated to be harvested illicitly, the amounts estimated to be clandestinely consumed or exported and the steps taken to prevent clandestine cultivation.

There was no noticeable fluctuation in the extent of illicit cultivation and consumption of these drugs. Cultivation of the coca plant was absolutely prohibited in India. The production of ganja was prohibited except in small areas where it was cultivated under license. The production and sale of bhang were also regulated and restricted, so far as was practicable, having regard to the fact that it was possible to obtain it from the wild plant which grew in many parts of India. Similarly, in British India the cultivation of poppy was allowed in certain selected areas in the United Provinces and the Punjab under license and, as strict watch was kept by the Excise and Police authorities to see that no illicit cultivation of the drug was resorted to, illicit cultivation was not possible except in a few remote hilly tracts of the country. The cultivation of poppy for opium in the Punjab has been prohibited with effect from 1st April 1936. No estimate can be given of the drugs clandestinely harvested or consumed in the country. From statement No. I enclosed it will, however, be seen that in 1937 there were only a few cases of illicit cultivation of opium and Indian hemp.

Question 3.—Please give the number of prosecutions (mentioning any points of special interest regarding the occupation of the accused) and of convictions for illicit manufacture, illicit import or export or trade, possession, etc., and the penalties imposed.

For number of prosecutions and convictions for illicit manufacture, import or export, etc., and penalties imposed, please see statements I and II attached.

Occupations of the accused.—The accused were either professional smugglers, carriers or agents of the smugglers but, in order to put the Police, Customs and Excise authorities on the wrong scent, they ostensibly followed some other profession, e.g., motor car drivers, brokers, cobblers, coolies, fruit vendors, and members of the crews of river launches.

Question 4.—Please give particulars of any important cases of illicit traffic not already separately reported to the League of Nations (Article 23 of the Limitation Convention of 1931).

The following important cases of illicit traffic were detected during the year :—

- (1) A bundle containing 2·829 kgs. of opium and 26·484 kgs. of ganja was recovered near a forest about 8 miles off from Adirampatnam in Tanjore district. Investigation showed that the contraband was sent as a Railway Parcel from Jannaghatta Railway

Station (Mysore State) under false declaration of "Oodubathis" (scented sticks) and taken delivery at Tiruchittambalam Railway Station. Three persons were suspected to be involved in this affair, one of whom was arrested and the other 2 (capitalists of Jaffna) were being traced. The case was pending further investigation.

- (2) A quantity of about 136 kgs. of opium in 6 zinc tins was recovered by the Police and Salt Officers on the sea shore in Theethandathanam, in Rannad district. The drug was booked at Maur Railway station in Patiala State falsely declared as machinery and taken delivery at Samianallur Railway Station in Madura district. It was then taken by car to Theethandathanam and buried on the sea shore preparatory to smuggling to Ceylon. Five persons all belonging to Jaffna were charged and sentenced to undergo imprisonment. The opium was said to have been purchased from opium contractors, Patiala State. Investigations in Patiala State did not disclose any evidence to show that any of the licensees there had any hand in this affair.
- (3) A parcel containing 47.6 kgs. of opium booked from Bareta Railway Station and intended for Jaffna was seized at Mangalore Railway Station. No person could be arrested. The case was under investigation.
- (4) At a wayside unimportant railway station, the Excise Sub-Inspector, Hissar, recovered about 40 kgs. of Malwa opium from a smuggler of Patiala State. The drug was being carried from Bikaner State to Patiala State. Accused was sentenced to undergo six months' rigorous imprisonment.
- (5) A Pathan of Tribal Territory was arrested at Cambellpore railway station with 12.168 kgs. of charas concealed in wooden bars of a *charpoi*. He was sentenced to undergo two years' rigorous imprisonment.
- (6) The Excise Inspector, Ambala seized about 26 kgs. of hill opium, when the drug was being smuggled from Nalagarh State to Patiala State. The accused was awarded two years' rigorous imprisonment.
- (7) Four traffickers were arrested with about 36 kgs. of hill opium. The drug was being smuggled from Mehlog State to Patiala State. The accused were sentenced to undergo two years' rigorous imprisonment each.
- (8) Some inhabitants of a petty village in Ferozepore district, noticing that a car skidded off the main road rushed to the rescue of the occupants, but to their utter surprise they found four bags containing 48.08 kgs. of hill opium. One of the accused was sentenced to undergo two years' rigorous imprisonment and the other was absconding.
- (9) 524 Kilogrammes of cocaine were recovered at Moghal Sarai Railway Station from the possession of a person who alleged to be a resident of Lahore, but the fact could not be verified. The drug seized was ingeniously concealed in a pillow and alleged to have been obtained from Calcutta.

Question 5.—Please give statistics of the total quantities of opium and other dangerous drugs (including prepared opium, except in the case of countries parties to the Geneva Agreement of 1925 and the Bangkok Agreement of 1931 which furnish a separate annual report on prepared opium) confiscated in the country.

These statistics should give the total amounts of substances confiscated including the amounts returned to the Permanent Central Board on Statistical Form E (GL) as confiscated on account of illicit import and export.

Statistics should be given in kilogrammes and grammes and in the case of manufactured drugs, in terms of the basic anhydrous alkaloid.

For statistics of quantities of opium and other dangerous drugs seized during the year 1937 please see statements I, II and III attached.

Question 6.—Please give any available information regarding the prices (wholesale and retail) of drugs as sold in the illicit traffic, indicating as far as possible the degree of adulteration of such drugs. Give explanations, where possible, regarding important fluctuations in prices in the illicit traffic.

The wholesale and retail sale prices of illicit opium, hemp drugs and cocaine during the year were as under :—

	Wholesale price.	Retail sale price.
	Rs.	Rs.
Opium	10 to 240 per seer .	20 to 640 per seer.
Charas	20 to 80 „ .	30 to 100 „
Ganja	10 to 60 „ .	10 to 85 „
Bhang	3 to 10 „ .	not known.
Cocaine	45 to 200 per oz. .	80 to 450 per oz.

The prices of contraband drugs fluctuated according to demand and supply and were naturally connected with the prices prevailing for drugs obtainable through licensees. As the rate of duty on opium and charas varied in different provinces, prices also varied between different provinces. Since licit opium and charas were available for sale at licensed shops in Bombay, the selling price of illicit opium and charas was comparatively low in this province. Licit cocaine was not available except for medicinal purposes, and the addicts therefore were prepared to pay high prices for the illicit stuff. The price demanded for illicit opium and hemp drugs in Bengal was not higher than that fixed by Government for licensed retail sale. The illicit traffic in these drugs thus seemed to owe its existence not so much to the restriction upon sale and possession as to the high rates of taxation and retail price for licit supply. It was only in areas in and around Calcutta and in industrial areas, where the limit of retail sale of opium, without permit had been limited to 12 grains, that owing to this special restriction upon sales, there was a certain amount of smuggling of the drug from the neighbouring British tracts where the limit of sale was 1 tola or from the French Settlement at Chandernagore. For illicit cocaine the price demanded was higher than the price of the licit drug. This was undoubtedly due to restriction imposed upon sale and possession of the drug. The disparity in prices of charas prevailing in the United Provinces and the Punjab and Delhi made smuggling extremely attractive to smugglers.

in the United Provinces. The smuggling of Nepali ganja into the districts of the United Provinces bordering on Nepal continued, as the prices in Nepal were much cheaper. As there was no special demand of contraband charas and opium in the Punjab, the sale prices of these drugs varied considerably. The variation in prices was also due to the fact that sometimes a smuggler, finding himself under surveillance, disposed of his stock at any price he could get. The other reason was the quantity and quality of adulterated contents of these drugs. On account of the restriction imposed upon by the annual ten per cent reduction of opium rations of consumers below 50 years of age, the smuggled opium had a very good demand in Assam. These opium consumers were generally believed hardly to put up with reduced rations but to supplement them from illicit sources, so the demand was acute and the smugglers' margin of profit was worth running the risk in importing the contraband article from places outside Assam. The comparatively lower retail price of Cooch Bihar opium was another inducement to smuggling into Assam where the price was higher. Illicit retail trade in opium was conducted on an extensive scale in the N.-W. F. P. owing to poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and neighbouring tribal areas and high rate of taxation on Excise opium. In the Central Provinces, Sind, Ajmer-Merwara and Coorg, illicit traffic being on a small scale, the matter was not of much importance. In Madras, Bihar, Baluchistan and Delhi, no information was available about wholesale and retail sale prices of drugs.

Contraband opium was generally found in an adulterated state. Charas was also usually adulterated with foreign matter to the extent of about 20 to 25 per cent. Tobacco and catechu were frequently added to charas and opium respectively, to increase the weight. Adulteration of cocaine in the illicit traffic was common. The chief adulterants for cocaine were novocaine and boric acid.

STATEMENTS.

STATE

Statement showing the total number of prosecutions and convictions (with an indication from or to places outside India which are shown in Statement II below) imposed during

Province.	Total number of prosecutions.				Total number of convictions.			
	Opium.	Morphine.	Hemp drugs.	Cocaine.	Opium.	Morphine.	Hemp Drugs.	Cocaine.
Madras	34	...	268	...	30	...	265	...
Bombay	169	...	215	7	158	...	199	7
Sind	37	...	66	...	28	...	52	...
Bengal	248	2	1,095	59	181	1	1,033	34
Bihar	9	...	228	3	9	...	194	2
Orissa	30	...	25	...	20	...	17	...
United Provinces	273	...	570	89	249	...	514	63
Punjab	154†	...	61	1	128†	...	48	1
Central Provinces	215	...	243	...	168	...	173	...
Assam	267	...	246	...	189	...	222	...
North-West Frontier Province	116	...	15	...	90	...	13	...
Delhi	7	...	37	30	6	...	25	24
Ajmer-Merwara including Railway lands in Rajputana and Central India	14	...	14	13	12	...	11	8
Coorg	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Baluchistan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

†Relating to opium

MENT I.

tion as to the nature of offence leading to conviction) for offences (other than smuggling relating to dangerous drugs separately, quantities of each drug seized and penalties the year 1937.

Nature of offence leading to conviction.	Penalties imposed.	Quantity of drugs seized.											
		Opium.		Morphine.		Hemp drugs.						Cocaine.	
		Kg.	Grm.	Kg.	Grm.	Ganja.		Charas.		Bhang.		Kg.	Grm.
Illicit transport, possession, sale, manufacture and cultivation.	Fine and imprisonment.	175 and 12 pills.	800	...	...	21 (58 hemp plants.)	416	...	...	...	...	...	...
Illicit cultivation, possession-sale or inter-provincial import or export.	Do.	45	520	...	...	85	65	5	534	4	333	...	50
Possession, import and sale.	Fine and imprisonment.	3	45	...	...	...	...	7	233	...	...	...	...
Illicit possession sale, cultivation, import, export and transport.	Fine and R. I.	331 (76 plants.)	797	...	...	125 (several plants.)	686	116	137	770	656	1	518
Illicit possession, cultivation and sale.	Do.	...	373	...	...	24	253	...	...	75	556	...	12
Ditto	Fine and imprisonment.	1	761	...	...	1 and 3 hemp plants.	592	...	...	1	154	...	...
Illicit possession, sale, import, export, and cultivation.	Do.	190 and 26 plants.	716	...	...	206 and 239 plants.	235	102 and 159 packets.	256	99 and 106 plants.	338	...	698 and some packets.
Ditto	Do.	492 and 40 poppy heads.	200 and 266	...	...	...	...	11	294	27	420	...	1
Illegal import, sale, cultivation and possession.	Do.	4	179	...	...	2 and 25 ganja plants.	450	3	722	7	663	...	...
Illicit growing, possession, sale and importation.	Do.	43	979	...	...	413	685	...	...	...	...	...	...
Unlawful possession and import.	Fine and R. I.	25	267	...	...	...	...	68	663	...	...	...	...
Illegal possession and sale.	Fine and imprisonment.	1	...	...	...	...	...	85	...	...	...	...	250
Illicit possession, cultivation and sale.	Fine and rigorous imprisonment.	46	488	...	...	3 and 3 hemp plants.	371	...	4	1	633	...	350
.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

and poppy heads.

Statement showing total number of seizures, prosecutions, convictions, etc., in British India (from or to places outside India, that is,

Province.	Particulars of drugs.	Total number of seizures (cases).		Name of place (origin or destination.)	
		Import.	Export.	Import.	Export.
		3	4	5	6
	Opium.	3	3	Karikal and Ceylon.	Ceylon.
Madras	Hemp Drug (Ganja)	4	2	Pondicherry, Karikal and Ceylon.	Straits Settlements and Ceylon.
	Opium.	3	2	Iran.	Durban.
Bombay	Hemp drug (Charas)	1	5	Not known.	Port Said.*
Sind	Opium.	3	...	One case from Iran, in 2 other cases place of origin not known.	
	Cocaine	3	...	Seized on ships plying between Calcutta and Osaka in the Far East. Tibet and Burma. Afghanistan.	
	Opium.	7	3		
Bengal	Hemp Drug (Charas)	...	3	...	...
	Do. (Ganja)	4	...	Nepal.	...
	Opium.	4	...	Do.	...
Bihar.	Hemp drug (Ganja)	335	...	Do.	...
	Do. (Bhang)	26	...	Do.	...
Orissa	Opium.	...	1	...	South America.
United Provinces	Opium.	9	...	Afghanistan.	...
Punjab	Hemp drug (Charas)	28	...	Central Asia	...
Central Provinces . . . . .	.....	...	...	.....	.....
Assam . . . . .	.....	...	...	.....	.....
N. W. F. Province . . . . .	.....	...	...	.....	.....
Delhi . . . . .	.....	...	...	.....	.....
Ajmer-Merwara . . . . .	.....	...	...	.....	.....
Coorg	Hemp drug (Charas)	2	...	Afghanistan and independent territory.	...
Baluchistan	Opium.	1	...	Afghanistan.	...

NOTE.—Much more than the quantity shown in the statement is believed to have been actually smuggled doubt to be cases of smuggling between foreign countries and British India.

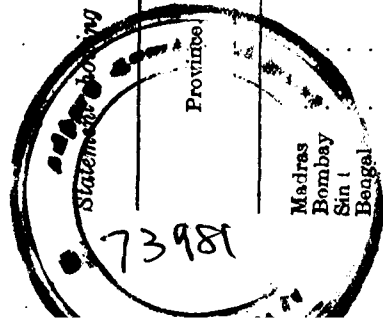
*Relates only to 50 % of the drug seized ; destination of the remaining half not known.

MENT II

MENT II.
respect of smuggling of opium and other dangerous drugs separately from or into British India and Indian States during the calendar year 1937.

Total number of persons prosecuted.		Total number of persons convicted.		Penalties imposed.	Quantities of drugs seized.			
Import.	Export.	Import.	Export.		Import.		Export.	
					Kg.	Grm.	Kg.	Grm.
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
2	9	2 (Hindu Non-Brahmin).	5 (Jaffanites.)	Fine and rigorous imprisonment.	5	914	143	336
2	4	1 (French) 1 (Muhammadan).	1 Muhammadan.	Do.	1	205	27	216
...	1	...	1 British	R. I.	9	330	2	642
1	5	1 British.	5 British.	Fine and R. I.	...	192	2	276
3	...	3	...	Fine and imprisonment	...	194	...	...
2 (Chinese)	...	1 (Chinese)	...	R. I.	10	808	...	...
6	2	5	2	Fine and rigorous imprisonment.	11	222	5	697
...	1	...	1 (Muhammadan).	...	...	...	3	751
4	...	4	...	Fine and R. I.	6	310	...	...
6	...	4 (nationality not known.)	...	Imprisonment and fine.	...	46	...	...
344	...	317 do.	...	Do.	32	448	...	...
26	...	13 do.	...	Do.	71	240	...	...
...	...	...	Pending	...	...	...	1	250
9	...	9	...	Do.	50	468	...	...
26	...	19	...	Do.	37	861	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	...	3 Pathans	...	Fine and R. I.	6	931	...	...
1	...	1 (Baloch)	...	Fine	...	128	...	...

into India from foreign countries but the seizures shown therein include only such cases as are proved beyond



STATEMENT III.

Statement showing prosecutions, convictions and penalties imposed for offences relating to opium smoking and quantities of prepared opium confiscated during the year 1937.

Province	Total number of prosecutions.	Total number of convictions.	Nature of offence.	Penalties imposed.	Quantity of prepared opium seized.
Madras	5	5	Illicit possession	Fine and imprisonment	Kg. Grm.
Bombay	6	6	Illicit possession and sale	Ditto.	32 78
Sind	..	..	..	..	..
Bengal	568	456	Illicit possession, manufacture, etc., smoking in assembly and for opening a den.	Fine and imprisonment	7 979
Bihar	..	..	..	..	..
Orissa	12	7	Illicit manufacture of prepared opium, opium smoking, keeping smoking dens, sale and possession of smoking apparatus.	Fine and imprisonment	6 appxly, besides materials, implements and apparatus used for manufacture and smoking of prepared opium. 2 506
United Provinces	139	115	Opium smoking, possession, sale and keeping of dens.	Ditto	.. 388
Punjab	70	70	Smoking and keeping smoking dens.	Ditto	0 408
Central Provinces and Berar	355	320	..	Fine and imprisonment	..
Assam	*	*	..	*	*
North-West Frontier Province.	*	*	..	*	*
Delhi	3	3	Illicit possession	..	..
Ajmer-Merwara	..	..	..	..	..
Coorg	..	..	..	..	..
Baluchistan	..	..	..	..	..

GIPD—M 103 CBR—31.5.38—1,100.

* Information not available.