CHARACTERIZATION OF NARCOTIC DRUG CANNABIS IN CHHATTISGARH STATE OF INDIA

Rajesh Mishra UDP*
*Deputy Inspector General of Police, PHQ Chhattisgarh, Raipur CG

Introduction
The present study is based on the last three years case data of narcotic cases i.e., 2002, 2003 & 2004 which are registered in different police stations of Chhattisgarh state. The case data analysis was conducted to prepare a database of narcotic drug cannabis for physical characterization, illegal trafficking, route and mode of transportation. This database may be useful to the different law enforcement agencies involved in the implementation of NDPS act.

The characterization studies of narcotic drugs can provide indicative information to the law enforcement authorities. By identifying similarities and differences between drug samples, the information generated by drug characterization studies can be used to help answer the following questions:

Are there more drug samples connected? Does this relationship provide a link between, for example, a drug dealer and user? Does the relationship between samples provide any useful information relating to local, national, regional or international drug supply and distribution networks or any information as to the extent of such networks? Where does the sample come from (e.g., geographic origin, laboratory source)? What is the method of clandestine drug production? Which specific chemicals are employed in the manufacturing process?

The detailed physical, chemical and botanical & microscopic analysis of drug samples can make measurements of relative concentrations of major, minor, impurity and trace compounds which may be added at any point in the distribution chain, subsequent to drug manufacture. The most useful information for law enforcement authorities is the establishment of a specific link between the supplier and users, drug distribution patterns, networks, as also geographic origin of drug sample.

Material & method
The last three years narcotic case data i.e; 2002, 2003 & 2004 has been taken into consideration for the making database. The details and relevant information about all the registered cases under NDPS act were collected from different Police stations of the Chhattisgarh state and samples of seized narcotic drugs were collected from FSL, Raipur for making physical database.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>TOTAL CASES REGISTERED UNDER NDPS ACT DURING</th>
<th>CHHATTISGARH STATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>431</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above case data indicate that the large no of Cannabis and its preparations are reported in the Chhattisgarh State i.e.; 747 cases in which 747 cases are of ganja and 36 cases are from cannabis plant. Investigating agencies find that it is difficult to establish the main source of origin of seized cannabis. However the appearance, composition and quality of cannabis depend upon many factors such as climate, soil, and method of cultivation, age and variety of plants. Some cases however have been observed that of illicit trafficking of Opium, Morphin and Brown sugar but no case of cocaine has been registered.

The preliminary physical characterization of 250 cases of the seized sample of ganja have been conducted by hand magnifier and low power microscope, for the type of sample, their form of packing, way of transportation and colour & size of flowering tops. The details of microscope, chemical, impurity profiling of the samples is in progress at School of Biotechnology, Pt. Ravishankar University, Raipur.
The total number of persons who were arrested in connection of illicit drug trafficking is 845 in which 38 are female. 186 persons were found from other than Chhattisgarh state. The 116 persons arrested in drug trafficking of ganja were resident of Orissa state. In 711 cases single person was arrested with narcotic drug and in a single case 6 persons were arrested.

**MODE OF SEIZURES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Possession</th>
<th>168</th>
<th>135</th>
<th>120</th>
<th>423</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valuation</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selling</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation by road</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation by train</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SEIZURE OF CANNABIS OF MORE THAN 100 KG**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Case No.</th>
<th>Place of Tobacco</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name of the Suspect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>Orissa to Bazar</td>
<td>11-09-04</td>
<td>Main Road Kohar, 11-09-04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>Dhamtari to Gondangs</td>
<td>21-08-04</td>
<td>Dhamtari Gondangs road, 25-07-03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>Bilhar to Bilaspur</td>
<td>02-06-04</td>
<td>Bilhar to Bilaspur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>Jagdharo to Raipur</td>
<td>02-09-04</td>
<td>Jagdharo to Jagdharo, 02-04-04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>Raigarh to Assam</td>
<td>04-01-04</td>
<td>Raigarh to Assam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>Keshlab to Bilaspur</td>
<td>02-07-04</td>
<td>Keshlab to Bilaspur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>Bantar to Raipur</td>
<td>14-10-04</td>
<td>Bantar to Raipur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>Orissa to Raipur</td>
<td>26-12-03</td>
<td>Orissa to Raipur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>003</td>
<td>Orissa to Bazar</td>
<td>25-10-02</td>
<td>Orissa to Bazar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>000-4</td>
<td>Orissa to Raipur</td>
<td>12-11-2002</td>
<td>Ramnath Bhatta March Raipur, 12-11-2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>000</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh to Raipur</td>
<td>26-01-04</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh to Raipur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>000</td>
<td>Bantar to Bilaspur</td>
<td>14-10-04</td>
<td>Bantar to Bilaspur</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 423 cases of narcotic drug cannabis were seized from the possession of the suspect, and in 147 and 113 cases, respectively during the transportation by road and by train. There were 12 cases in which the quantity of seized cannabis (Ganja) was found more than 100 Kg. In a single case the quantity recovered was 349 Kg from the possession of the suspect. There was no case registered for narcotic drug in Balrampur district.
Conclusion

Illicit cultivation in Chhattisgarh as well as transportation from the neighboring states together pose serious problems for large drug trafficking and abuse in the state.

The state has tropical climate with hot summer and cold winters. Average rainfall of area is about 1000 MM. Most of the precipitation occurs during the Monsoon (Mid of June to Mid of September). Day temperature during the summer can touch a high of about 47 °C, while in the winters the temperature may fall well below 10°C.

Most of the state is covered by red and yellow soil. The other soil types are red latosol red sandy latosol and black, all of them formed in situ. Most of Bastar district is covered by red loamy and sandy soils. Latosol soils are found over the south of Maunpat plateau of Surguja, the adjoining parts of Bilaspur and Durg districts and near Jagdalpur area. A deep black soil extends over the heartland of Raipur district and western part of Bilaspur and Rajnandgaon districts. The soil varies according to the topographical conditions in the region.

Both the climatic and the soil conditions are conducive for the cultivation of cannabis plants in Chhattisgarh.

The illicit cultivation of cannabis plants as per the data base mostly occurs in central region of Chhattisgarh. In the last 3 years 151 plants were seized in Kawardha, 964 plants were seized from 8 cases in Bilaspur, 223 plants were seized in Dhamtari, 86 plants were seized in Raipur and 149 plants were seized in Kanker.

Chhattisgarh is located in Central India. This state possesses high amount of biodiversity. The state has more than 44% of its area covered with tropical deciduous forests. The Population is 20,795,956 as per census of 2001.

Chhattisgarh is one of the few land locked states in the country. Uttar Pradesh in the north, Jharkhand on the north and upper part of eastern region, in the east it is bound by Orissa, in the South by Andhra Pradesh and in the West by Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Chhattisgarh state is well connected with surrounding states and rest of India by road and rail. Howrah Mumbai Main rail line passes through the state from Maharashtra to Orissa. Another rail line goes to Madhya Pradesh from Bilaspur and to Orissa and Andhra Pradesh from Raipur. Bastar is also connected to Visakhapatnam by rail.

There are five national highways across the state, viz: G.E. road from Howrah to Bombay, Raipur to Jabalpur, Raipur to Surguja and Raipur to Kunta through Jagdalpur, and Bhopalpattanam to Jagdalpur. A part from national highways there are number of state highway connecting importing regions within the state.