

TOPIC No. 11

PROJECT PRISM

DURATION OF SESSION:	20 MINUTES
SUGGESTED METHOD:	LECTURE
TRAINING AIDS:	OHP, POWERPOINT PRESENTATION
AIM OF THE SESSION:	

The session will familiarise the participants with international community's effort to stem the flow of ATS precursors to traffickers through this international project called the Project Prism, its goals and how an investigating officer can benefit from the project achievements and results.

OBJECTIVE OF THE SESSION:

At the end of this session, participants will appreciate the significance of international cooperation in preventing diversion of ATS precursors for illicit manufacture of ATS.

POINTS TO BE COVERED:

- Addiction to ATS is growing rapidly across the globe.
- The number of people abusing ATS is more than those abusing cocaine, heroin and other opiates put together.
- Between 1990 and 1998, seizures of heroin and cocaine rose by 50% while seizures of ATS during the same period rose by 400%.
- Manufacture of ATS is relatively easy and recipes for their manufacture are available on the internet.
- Considering the growing magnitude of the problem, the INCB convened a meeting to discuss means of containing diversion of ATS precursors.
- In a subsequent meeting in Washington, it was proposed to start an operation called 'Project Prism'.
- A task force was set up under the project supported by two working groups-one each on chemicals and equipment and a Scientific Support Group.

HOW CAN AN INVESTIGATING OFFICER BENEFIT FROM PROJECT PRISM

- Investigating officers can report their seizures of ATS and its precursors to the Project. In turn, they can get information on patterns of similar patterns of diversion or illicit manufacture noticed elsewhere.
- The Project also conducts intensive backtracking operations. These operations can help identify the source of ATS precursors and the routes followed for their diversion and smuggling.
- The Project is also supported by a Scientific Support Group which can provide technical help on the precursors used to manufacture ATS, the source of precursors, etc.