

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST BY INDIAN UNITS TO BE ENGAGED IN MANUFACTURE OF ALKALOIDS/ACTIVE PHARMACEUTICAL INGREDIENTS (APIs) FROM UNLANCED POPPY OF PRESENTLY CULTIVATED OPIUM POPPY CROP, LANCHED POPPY STRAW FROM WHICH JUICE HAS BEEN EXTRACTED THROUGH LANCING AND OPIUM.**

1. India is one of the few countries permitted to cultivate opium and produce opium gum for export and extraction of alkaloids therefrom. Farmers are licensed to grow opium and the entire opium is procured by the Central Bureau of Narcotics and transferred to the Government Opium and Alkaloid Works at Neemuch and Ghazipur for processing. Part of the opium is exported while some opium is used to extract alkaloids for medical use. Opiate raw materials are strictly controlled internationally and only a few companies in the world produce alkaloids from opium.
- 2(i). **Opium:-** Opium Produced from legal cultivation is processed in the Government Opium and Alkaloid Works at Neemuch and Ghazipur. Before processing Opium is tested by the officers of Central Revenue Control Laboratory at Neemuch and Ghazipur to determine the Morphine content available in the Opium. On the basis of the test results raw opium is classified in 'good opium' and 'inferior opium' category. If the opium is having Morphine content less than 9% on dry basis then it is termed as inferior opium. There is unutilised opium lying in the godown of Government Opium and Alkaloids Works Ghazipur and Neemuch therefore government intends to explore possibility of extraction of alkaloids from opium with new technology.