

Mumbai: Venezuelan held with Rs 5 crore cocaine in body

TNN | Aug 15, 2019, 05.58 AM IST



MUMBAI: A 27-year-old Venezuelan woman found hiding 80 capsules containing around 800 grams of cocaine worth Rs 4.8 crore inside her body has been arrested by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).

In July the Narcotics Control Bureau had arrested a Venezuelan woman hiding 36 tablets containing cocaine in her body. In 2014 one such incident had taken place. Sources said that if even one capsule had broken and the drug had mixed with her blood, it would have cost the woman her life.

In the present case, the city unit of the DRI acted on a specific tip-off and detained Balzabaptista Karendralenny of Venezuela. She was not carrying any personal luggage, which deepened DRI suspicions.

Karendralenny had arrived in the city from Sau Paulo via Addis Ababa on Friday at the CSI Airport. She was detained and produced before a local court.

Authorities sought permission for conducting medical tests, including an X-ray of her body, since intelligence inputs suggested there were drugs in her body. The X-

ray screening confirmed the presence of some foreign bodies in the stomach of Karendralenny, who admitted to having consumed 80 capsules containing cocaine before taking the flight to the city at Sao Paulo in Brazil.

In hospital, doctors managed to purge her of 80 capsules in the period August 9-13 and these were seized.

She was placed under arrest and a Spanish translator was called in to interrogate her. During questioning she had inter-alia stated that she worked as a telecaller initially and thereafter as a prostitute for two years in Valera. She said then worked in the Venezuelan military as a soldier for two years from 2011-2013. In 2014, she met a Dominican Republic citizen and was into the prostitution trade and through her she met another person, a Nigerian.

She learnt that she came to know that Nigerian was into the illegal trade of drugs - ecstasy, cocaine and heroin. Her Nigerian friend used to supply drugs to various countries in Africa, Europe and Asia using the services of mule smugglers travelling by air. In 2017, he shifted base to Brazil set up his drug trafficking business in Sao Paulo.

She said early this year she accepted the Nigerian's offer to work as a drug peddler. She said she was offered \$5,000 to smuggle 100 capsules of cocaine.