

and here, and all other relevant steps.

श्री ज० ब० सारिक जो कुछ अभी करमाया गया है उस सिलसिले में मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार की सरकार हकूमत काश्मीर की विलो बुड को डिडेलेप करने में क्या मदद कर रही है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह जो मदद तो जैरी हम हर एक चीज में देते हैं "सही दो जाती है जैसे लोन हम देते हैं, ग्रांट देते हैं वगैरह। हमें आशा है कि काश्मीर को इन्स्ट्रुमेंटों में इस समय काफी बढ़ रही है और वहां विलो काफी बढ़ रही है। लेकिन सिर्फ काश्मीर पर ही निर्भर रहना ठीक नहीं होगा क्योंकि हर एक स्टेट में विलो और मलबेरी को और बढ़ाया जा सकता है। इसलिए उत्तर प्रदेश में पंजाब में और दूसरी स्टेट्स में भी हम मदद कर रहे हैं।

Shri Jadhav: May I know the amount of foreign exchange earned by export of sports goods?

Shri Manubhai Shah: In 1957—Rs. 24 lakhs and in 1958, in eight months—Rs. 21 lakhs It is on the increase

Shri Jaipal Singh: May I know if the Exports Promotion Council also recommend that there should be a reduction in postal rates; if so, has any decision been taken?

Shri Manubhai Shah: They did recommend, and we are in correspondence with the Ministry. We hope, because there is much substance in the argument that postal rates should be reduced, that something will come out of that.

Shri Dasappa: In the statement it is stated that efforts are being made to see if mulberry and willow are available in Assam. I do not really understand what is meant by saying that efforts are being made to see that they are available.

Shri Manubhai Shah: It should not be "available"; it should be "produced".

Natural Essential Oils

*668. **Shri Damani:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the value of the Natural Essential Oils imported every year; and

(b) what steps are being taken to develop Essential Oils producing industry in the country?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) The import of essential vegetable oils in the past was as follows:—

1957—Rs 74,32,000

1958—(January-Aug)—

Rs. 32,15,000

(b) The Central Government renders assistance to the industry in the matter of procurement of requisite raw materials, packing materials, protection against competition from abroad, and facilities for export. The Essential Oil Research Committee of C.S.I.R. is sponsoring research work for the development of this industry and is giving technical guidance and financial assistance for such schemes.

Besides, State Governments are rendering assistance by way of obtaining finance, land and imports of improved type of seeds etc.

Shri Damani: May I know by what time the production of essential oils will be developed to such an extent so as to meet our requirements?

Shri Manubhai Shah: This is a very fast developing industry and it is not merely good to aim at self-sufficiency. We go on producing more different types of essential oils, develop their uses and export the finished goods, even if we have to import something from outside.

Shri V. P. Nayar: What are the more important essential oils that we import, because I find that we have imported to the tune of Rs. 74 lakhs in 1957?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Eucalyptus oil, Geranium oil, Lemongrass oil, Citronelle oil and other essential oils.

Shri Dasappa: May I know whether Government are taking adequate steps to see that some attempt is made to eradicate the spike disease which has attacked the sandal-wood in the country?

Shri Manubhai Shah: This is serious development and we are very much concerned about it. It has also caused some fall in production of sandal-wood oil. I can assure the hon. Member that the Ministry concerned and our Ministry are looking into it very seriously.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Minister stated that one of the important items of import is eucalyptus oil. May I know whether any steps are being taken to develop that industry for the extraction of oil from eucalyptus leaves to meet the entire requirements of the country?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is true; but to develop everything simultaneously becomes rather difficult. Production of eucalyptus oil has been more or less stabilised. We are trying to go forward and increase it from 3 lakh lbs. to 4 lakh lbs. a year.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether any research is being done by the C.S.I.R. about essential oils; if so, what is the nature of the research?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Yes. There is a Committee of Essential Oils as a sub-committee of the C.S.I.R. Large amounts of money are spent in different laboratories—and some of the results have been quite encouraging—for better distillation from these natural herbs and plants. Experiments are already being undertaken in Hyderabad, Poona and other laboratories.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: May I know the amount that Government have invested for developing the production of essential oils and the way in which that investment has been made?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Government has not to invest anything direct. We only give promotional incentive to different manufacturers and different extractors so that their processes are modernised and also greater production takes place. What we want is to have better plantations of these different types of essential oil-bearing plants, and they are extracted by various researches.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know what sort of assistance is given in the matter of development of the lemongrass oil industry?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I have had the privilege of mentioning before the House several times what help we have been giving to the Kerala Government and various plantations in Kerala,—because that is the biggest place where lemongrass oil is produced—and the hon. Member will be pleased to know that in 1956 the production of lemongrass oil there was only 800 tons whereas in 1958 the quantity is estimated at 1,050 tons.

Refugees in Bettiah Camp

*670. **Shri Rajendra Singh:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some refugees in Bettiah Camp (Bihar) are on fast consequent on their demands not being conceded by the Government; and

(b) if so, what are their demands?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naikar): (a) According to the report of the State Government dated 11th October, 1958, only one person named Shrimati Alorani De has been on fast since the afternoon of 8th October, 1958.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.