

of the State Government, located in the Regional Research Institute campus at Poojapura, Trivandrum;

5. Pharmacology Unit of Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, located in the Medical College, Trivandrum.

6. Publication Unit, now part of the Government Ayurveda College, Trivandrum.

The main objects of the Institute are: (a) to promote the growth and development of Ayurveda, (b) to augment highly trained manpower at Post-graduate and Doctorate Degree level; (c) to formulate aims and patterns of research on scientific lines in Ayurveda; (d) to undertake any research or other programmes in Ayurveda; (e) to initiate and develop and coordinate scientific research in different aspects, fundamental and applied of Ayurveda and to promote and assist institutions of research for the study of diseases, their prevention, causation and remedy; (f) to provide medical care through Ayurveda to the suffering humanity on no profit no loss basis and (g) to conduct experiments and develop patterns of teaching in Post-graduate education in all branches of Ayurveda.

But it is a matter of regret that the proposal is still awaiting clearance by Central Government. The Government of Kerala on 21-10-80 requested for expediting the clearance of the Government of India on the proposal. The Central Government has replied that the matter was being examined. I request the Union Government and the Union Minister for Health to avoid delay and do the needful for establishing the proposed national Institute for Ayurveda at Trivandrum at the earliest.

(v) STEPS TO IMPROVE WORKING OF INDIAN DRUGS AND PHARMACEUTICALS LTD.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): The Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL), one of the biggest public sector enterprises, is in shambles. The capacity utilisation of its various plants, with heavy inven-

tory of finished products, the monthly losses on account of under utilisation of capacity is estimated at about Rs. 1.5 crores. Of the total losses, the Rishikesh Antibiotic Plant of IDPL alone is responsible for a loss of over Rs. one crore every month.

What is worse the losses are being compounded by the burden of interest charges on the massive inventory of finished products worth about 32 crores. Besides, IDPL has to recover its dues totalling about Rs. 12 crores from the State Governments. These losses assume significance keeping in view the rise in the prices of drugs allowed by the Government early this year.

It is interesting to note that the rate of capacity utilisation of the Rishikesh Plant is 30 per cent. At present the Gurgaon formulation plant is operating at 15-20 per cent capacity, the surgical instrument plant at Madras at 30 per cent and the Hyderabad semi-synthetic drug plant at 65 per cent.

It was expected that the country would become self-sufficient in the production of these bulk drugs, but the expectations have been belied. The demand for drugs continues to be met through imports. Over Rs. 150 crores worth of drugs have to be imported to fill the gap between availability and demand. IDPL has also bungled in the implementation of its expansion plan. On account of delays, the project cost had gone up from the original estimate of Rs. 15.3 crores to Rs. 27 crores.

The above situation is indeed serious and dismal. I call upon the Government to immediately gear up IDPL and take immediate steps on war footing to put this public sector undertaking in proper shape. The present shortage of basic bulk drugs and life saving medicines is the cause of great concern for public health.

The House knows well that throughout the country there is a dearth of life saving medicines and important drugs. If a public-sector prestigious undertaking like IDPL fails in its production programme the Government will be left with no other choice but to import the essential drugs at heavy foreign exchange cost. I, therefore, request

[Dr. Vasant Kumar Pandit]

the Government to appoint a High Power Investigation Committee to go into the working of IDPL, so that the production be geared up and the hazard to public health will be much reduced. This is a serious matter of urgent public importance and I request the Government to come before the Parliament with a full report on what steps they have taken in this connection.

(vi) NEED TO ESTABLISH A SANDAL CORPORATION

SHRI CUMBUM N. NATARAJAN (Periyakulam): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, India produces nearly 140 tonnes of Sandalwood oil annually about 60 per cent of which is exported. The rest of the oil is consumed within the country in the perfumery industry, the most important of which is the manufacture of Ittars. It is also used in soap industry and puffing products. It earns foreign exchange to the tune of about Rs. 2 crores every year. There are at present 25 distillation units in different parts of the country.

The sandal tree may become mature in about 40 years. Generally dead trees or old trees between 50 to 60 years are allowed to be cut for oil distillation. The small scale units mainly receive their supply of raw material from the Forest Departments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

Export of Sandalwood oil used to be nearly 65 per cent of the total production. It is exported under Agmark seal of the Government of India. The principal buyers are USA, UK, France, Germany, Switzerland, Holland, USSR, Japan, Thailand, Sudan etc. In the recent past there has been decline in the export of Indian Sandalwood oil because of free availability of Indonesian oil in a big way at a cheaper rate. It has captured nearly 40 per cent of the world market. As such, it is a big challenge to India to overcome this situation.

Further, the Government has imposed a ban on the export of Sandalwood. The ban on the export of Sandalwood must be lifted and good quality sandalwood required for religious purposes must be exported for earning foreign exchange to the country. It is wrong to assume that export of sandalwood is denuding the forest, as only dead trees or fully-mature trees collected by the Government of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are offered for sale or used for distillation. Further propagation of sandalwood could be intensified in all the Southern States of the country using better seed and other implements. Protection of the younger plants from grazing and browsing by animals must be thought of seriously and providing fence for protection. Smugglers remove the best trees which are usually genetically superior. This results in genetic erosion. So it becomes necessary to take appropriate steps to prevent smuggling. The spike disease in sandal is a serious problem and the disease may wipe out considerable part of the population. Research on the use of various fertilizers for obtaining quick growth and better heartwood formation in sandalwood should be attempted. As carved things of Sandalwood used for ornamental or religious purposes have great demand, more carving industries should be started to make these items and sent to foreign countries for earning foreign exchange.

I demand that a Sandal Corporation may be created to look after all aspects of silviculture, management, logging, extraction of oil, research, etc.

(vii) FLOOD RELIEF MEASURES IN MATHURA DISTRICT OF UTTAR PRADESH

श्री दिगम्बर सिंह (मथुरा) : उत्तर प्रदेश के जिला मथुरा में वर्षा के कारण बहुत हानि हुई है। गांवों में पानी भर गया है। मकान नष्ट हो गए हैं। वर्षा से पहले जो गन्ना आदि की फसल थी वह भी नष्ट हो गई है। खेतों में पानी भरने और लगातार वर्षा होते