

[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 विगम्बर सिंह (मथुरा) : उत्तर प्रदेश के जिला मथुरा में वर्षा के कारण बहुत हानि हुई है। गावों 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

रहने से खरीफ की फसल तैयार नहीं हो सकी है। कनेक गांवों में होकर वर्षा का पानी 29 जून से अब तक बह रहा है। गांव के मजदूर जहां गांवों में पानी भरा हुआ है बेकार बैठे हैं। बहुत से किसानों का, घर में भरा अनाज ब भूसा नष्ट हो गया है। पशुओं और आदिमियों में बीमारी फैलना प्रारंभ हो गया है। जनता प्रसाधारण रूप से बेचैन है। प्रदेश की सरकार द्वारा प्राप्त सहायता अपर्याप्त है। टूटे हुए मकान वालों को आर्थिक सहायता की आवश्यकता है। लगान, आबपाशी और कर्जा वसूली रोक कर माफ किये जाने की आवश्यकता है। जहां से पानी निकलना संभव है वहां से पानी निकलवाने की आवश्यकता है। बीमारियों के रोकने की अद्वितीय व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए। फसल तैयार करने की किसानों को सहायता दी जानी चाहिए। केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा विशेष ध्यान दिये बिना मथुरा जिले की समस्या हल होना असंभव है: अतः सरकार से प्रार्थना है शीघ्र ध्यान देकर मथुरा जिले की आर्थिक सहायता की व्यवस्था करे। केन्द्रीय सरकार बाढ़ नियंत्रण कार्य एवं उससे हुए नुकसान की क्षतिपूर्ति के लिए अधिक धन की व्यवस्था करे।

(viii) FAST BY FIVE KARNATAKA M.L.A.S FOR SETTLEMENT OF KARNATAKA-MAHARASHTRA BORDER DISPUTE.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Sir, Five Members of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly belonging to the 'Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti' have started an indefinite fast in Bombay in support of their demand that the Union Government should settle the long pending Karnataka-Maharashtra Border dispute in a just and amicable manner and on the basis of well-defined principles, taking into account the wishes of the people democratically-expressed.

In the Fifth Lok Sabha, the Government led by Mrs. Indira Gandhi had assured that the border dispute would be settled prior to the elections to the Sixth Lok Sabha.

Under the Janata Government, the Union Home Minister had already fixed a meeting of the Chief Ministers of Karnataka and Maharashtra to settle the dispute; but in the meantime the Government fell.

The present Government has also assured to settle the dispute.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take expeditious steps to settle the Karnataka-Maharashtra border dispute pending for about 25 years so that a source of tension between the two States is ended, and people from the border areas are encouraged to join the nation's mainstream of political life.

(ix) NON-AVAILABILITY OF WAGONS FOR BOOKING OF TEA FROM DISTRICT OF CACHAR TO VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): For the last four months, in spite of repeated requests to the N.F. Railway authorities and the Railway Board, the Tea industry in Cachar could not move their finished tea to various Tea Auction Centres and to other buyers of the country. This has created serious financial crisis in the Tea Industry of Cachar and about 5 lakhs tea garden labourers are not getting their wages regularly because of the non-availability of funds from Banks by the Industry people for non-booking of Tea. May I request the Railway Minister to look into the matter and take immediate steps so that sufficient number of tea fit wagons are made available to the intending despatchers in the various Railway stations of Cachar district? Unless this is done, this will create serious labour unrest in the district of Cachar.