

if a reference can be given. A suit is pending; how can such a statement be made on the floor of the House?

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : I will be able to produce the statement from the records but the Government did make a commitment that this land would be utilised for building residential quarters for the *pujaris*. I do not know whether our hon. friend, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, recalls that because he also took part in that discussion. It was asked if the *pujaris* did not want residential quarters to be constructed and why the Government should insist on doing this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, you come to the question.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Therefore this question remains to be explained. And the last thing I would like to know is this. The dimensions of the platform which he has given are also, I think, not correct. Actually the platform is causing inconvenience to old, aged and infirm people. It is too high to easily climb up or climb down.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is all right.

श्री निरंजन वर्मा : क्या श्रीमान् यह बताने का कष्ट करेंगे कि 1931 से पहले पुजारी इसके मालिक नहीं थे और उसका मालिक रीवा का शासक था और उनके बीच में और नई दिल्ली म्युनिसिपालिटी के बीच में जो समझौता हुआ था उसमें यह स्पष्ट था कि यह किसी प्रकार से भी, कभी भी, रेजिडेन्शियल हेडक्वार्टर्स के लिये नहीं दिया जायेगा और पूरे तौर से यह मन्दिर के काम के लिये भूमि को प्रयुक्त किया जायेगा।

SHRI B. S. MURTHY : There are cases pending on this and the court will decide about it.

MANUFACTURE OF MEDICINES

737. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) what steps are being taken for growing medicinal plants for the manufacture of medicines in the country;

(b) what steps are being taken to see that rare herbs and medicinal Plants do not fade out in the country;

(c) whether it is a fact that lot of Ayurvedic medicines which used to be found in the country previously are now being imported; and

(d) if so, what is the quantum of Ayurvedic medicines imported yearly?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI K. K. SHAH) : (a) and (b) Three units for the survey and experimental cultivation of medicinal plants and a herb garden for experimental cultivation of medicinal plants have been established.

(c) and (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha-

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that quite a number of rare herbs which used to be produced in India have been exported and since they are not being replanted again they are becoming extinct? If he is aware of such a fact may I know what steps are being taken by the Ministry to see that these rare herbs which are very efficacious do not become extinct?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY : It is a fact that some of these rare herbs are becoming extinct. That is why in a seminar held in January 1961 all these problems were discussed and a decision was taken that the matter must be taken up in right earnest to tackle the problem of survey, identification, cultivation, pharmacognostic study and supply of genuine herbs of standard qualifications. Therefore three centres have been established, one at Hardwar, the other at Ranikhet and a third in Rajasthan and all these are doing good work-

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : May I know from the hon. Minister whether he is also aware that some of these herbs are exported from this country, they are converted into modern medicines in the west and then imported into India in the shape of modern medicines? If that is also a fact may I know from the Minister what steps his Ministry has taken to see that the export of such herbs is stopped and their proper use and utilisation is done in the country itself?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY : It is also a fact that some of these things are being sent abroad. As a matter of fact steps are being taken in the Ministry in order to manufacture up to date drugs. Out of these and therefore we have now established a Central Council of Ayurvedic Research in the Ministry.

SHRI N. PATRA : Sir, our country is a vast country full of jungles in all the States and we have got very specific herbs of utility. May I know whether any attempt has been made to identify the medicinal herbs and any study has been made?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY : Yes, Sir. A study has been made and as many as 12 herbs are found to be considerably efficacious and have therapeutic value. They are extensively being used by the Ayurvedic physicians. These have been identified and there is no doubt about them. Another list of 280 herbs which enter into the composition of the commonly used medicines are also under survey.

SHRI GULAM NABI UNTOO : May I know why the Government is apathetic and shirks establishing a medicinal plant in the State of Jammu and Kashmir when the State is rich in herbs and other forest products? Has the Government any idea to establish a medicinal plant?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY : Yes, Sir. Wherever we find there is any possibility, of rearing rare herbs we are doing it. I think in Jammu and Kashmir also we will certainly do it, if the State Government comes forward.

SHRI GULAM NABI UNTOO : May I know.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have put your question—

DR. K. RAMIAH : May I know from the Minister whether it is not a fact that one of the plants whose tuber contains a drug used for family planning and which was being exported from India is now grown on a large scale in Bangalore and that grows there more satisfactorily and luxuriantly than in the Himalayan region. ICAR is now doing extensive research work on this plant. I would also like to know whether the growing of medicinal plants is no more a concern of the CSIR? They have not only institutes to grow medicinal plants but also laboratories to test the medicinal properties of the drugs.

SHRI B. S. MURTHY : Besides the CSIR, in the Ministry also we are having certain areas where rare herbs are grown. They are identified and are given to pharmacologists and drug manufacturers for proper use being made of them.

SHRIMATI SHAKUNTALA PA- < RANJPYE : Am I to understand from the figures that the hon. Minister quoted that there are only 200 odd and 108 medicinal plants in our country? Have the Government got a list of the medicinal herbs and plants in the country? A.s Subhashita has said : "Nasti Mulam Anaushadam".

SHRI B. S. MURTHY : The number is innumerable, but as I have stated so far 108 have been identified and 208 are being brought on to the list as denoted.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON : May I know from the Government whether a famous plant called "Sarpagandhi", which is used in the manufacture of a medicine for blood pressure, is being exported in large quantities from Kerala and due to the indiscriminate depletion of the resources the plants are facing extinction in Kerala? Similarly a plant called nux vomica—the fruit of the tree—is also facing extinction due to the depletion of the forest resources. If so, may I know whether the Government will take steps to see that a garden is grown in Kerala where all these rare drugs are planted?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY : We have already sanctioned a scheme for the protection of this in Kerala.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. A. D. Mani. Last question.

SHRI A. D. MANI : May I ask the Minister whether any steps have been taken to extend the growth of Sarpagandhi in the country because I understand as was pointed out by the hon. Member here, a lot of it is being exported abroad? Are you trying to extend its cultivation?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY : Yes, Sir.

*738. *The Questioner (Shri Chitta Basu) was absent. For answer, vide (ol, 5384 infra.*

UNIFORM TAX SYSTEM

*739- SHRI R. P. KHAITAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the suggestion made by Shri S. Bhoothalingam, Director General,