

## RAJYA SABHA

Monday, 16th December 1957

The House met at eleven of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### RESEARCH ON AAK AND BUI PLANTS FOUND IN RAJASTHAN

\*424. SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government are aware that aak and bui plants are found in large numbers in the State of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, of what use are these plants; and

(c) whether Government are making any research on these plants?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (DR. MONO MOHAN DAS):

(a) to (c). A statement giving the available information is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

(a) The name aak (which is presumably the same as ak) includes at least the following 5 species of plants:—

1. *Withania*
2. *Juglans*
3. *Morinda*
4. *Saccharum*
5. *Calotropis*

*Withania somnifera* is reported to occur in different parts of Rajasthan.

The name bui covers at least the following 7 species of plants:—

1. *Aerua*
2. *Plectranthus*
3. *Pulicaria*

4. *Anabasis*

5. *Ballota*

6. *Kochia indica*

7. *Swertia*.

*Aerua tomentosa* Foresk and *A. pseudo-tomentosa* are both called in vernacular as bui. It is stated to be fairly widely distributed in the arid zone of Rajasthan (Bikaner and Jodhpur). *Aerua lanata* is a small herbaceous weed noted in Rajasthan.

(b) Aak.—*Withania somnifera*: The leaves of *Withania somnifera* are used as fodder and the seeds for coagulating milk.

*Calotropis*: *Calotropis gigantea* and *C. preora* are waste land weeds. Their floss (Ak and floss) is valued as filler. The plant is purgative, alexipharmic, anthelmintic; said to cure leprosy ulcers, tumours, piles, diseases of the spleen, the liver and the abdomen. The juice is laxative, root bark cures asthma and syphilis. Milk is bitter, purgative and cures leucodarma, tumors, etc. The plant is a popular remedy for snake bite and scorpion sting. Its rootbark is used in dysentery as a substitute for *Ipecacuanha*, diaphoretic expectorant, emetic, in form of a paste applied to elephantiasis. Its tincture of leaves is used in intermittent fever. Its latex is irritant, in combination with *Euphorbia neriifolia* used as purgative.

*Calotropis gigantea* and *C. preora* produce a silk cotton of some importance. Yields a fibre from the bark and a floss, used like kapok (*Eriodendron*) from the seeds. Its floss is commonly used for stuffing pillows and mattresses and in upholstery.

Bui.—*Kochia indica* (*Chenopodiaceae*): This plant is a tall erect branched annual, stem and branches more or less woolly, white.

Plant.—cardiac stimulant, used in case of weak and irregular heart.

**Fodder.**—It is used as a camel fodder.

Two other species of *Kochia*—(i) *K. scoparia* and (ii) *K. sedoides*—have medicinal properties.

*Pulicaria Crispa* is used for bruises in animals.

*Aerua Lanata* is alleged to have medicinal properties and their spikes are used as fillers.

*Swertia Alata* is used as tonic.

*Anabasis multiflora* is an annual weed used as camel fodder.

(c) The National Botanic Gardens have made collection of *Withania somnifera* from different parts of Rajasthan and are doing research work on it. The work is in progress.

**SHRI JUGAL KISHORE:** Sir, may I know whether the Government are aware that oak cotton is used for imitation silk and its milk is used for medicinal purposes?

**DR. MONO MOHAN DAS:** Sir, if the hon. Member refers to one of the species that belongs to these two groups of plants—and the particular species is *calotropis*—then it is a fact, Sir.

\*425. [The questioner (Moulana M. Faruqi) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 2608-2609 intra.]

\*426. [The questioner (Shri R. G. Agarwala) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 2608-2609 infra.]

#### DIVISION OF JABALPUR CANTONMENT AREA INTO SEVEN WARDS

\*427. **SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 624 in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th September, 1957, and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jabalpur Cantonment area has been divided into 7 wards for the purpose of holding the ensuing general election there and that this division has been approved by the Central Government;

(b) whether the electoral rolls have been made according to these wards;

(c) whether it is a fact that the division of wards has been altered; and if so, what action Government have taken in the matter; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the proclamation calling for the nominations on the 11th November, 1957, was made on the 9th November, 1957?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA):**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes.

(c) The division of wards has not been altered and hence the question of taking any action does not arise.

(d) Yes.

**SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND:** May I know, Sir, when was the delimitation of wards made by the Cantonment Board, and when was it actually approved by the Central Government?

**SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA:** The Jabalpur Cantonment was divided into seven wards for election purposes by a notification by the Central Government in January 1954.

**SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND:** May I know, Sir, whether certain voters of wards Nos. 3 and 5 had been transferred to wards Nos. 2 and 3, and also whether the Cantonment Board passed a resolution unanimously asking the Southern Command to revise the voters' lists along with the map according to delimitation?

**SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA:** Sir, the procedure is that Rule No. 9 of the Cantonment Electoral Rules pro-