

की व० रा० नक़द : इस पर विचार किया जा रहा है। ये सिक्के वापस ले लिये जायेंगे।

Shri C. D. Pande: May I know if it has come to the notice of the Government that the exchangeability between the two coins is not observed and that while people accept two naye paise for one pice they do not return two naye paise for one old pice?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: That involves two persons, the person who takes and the person who gives. It is a matter *inter se* between them. I am afraid Government can do nothing about it.

Shri Mohiudeen: Is Government aware that in places where government business is transacted, like post office and so on, if you tender one old four-anna piece it is accepted as 25 naye paise, but if you give two two-anna pieces it is not accepted as 25 naye paise but only as 24 naye paise, and thus there is some premium on the four-anna piece as compared with the two-anna or one-anna pieces?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I take that information and I shall find out what is the position.

Medicinal Research

*540. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether any grants have been given to the State Governments for medicinal research;

(b) the main medicinal herbs on which research work is being carried on by organisations run by Central Government; and

(c) the probable time by which they will be able to manufacture the medicines?

The Deputy Minister of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 99].

(c) As investigations are still proceeding it is not yet possible to say when actual manufacture of medicines will be possible.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that the Health Ministry is also carrying on research on medicinal herbs and if so, what arrangements have been made for the co-ordination of the researches of the two Ministries?

Shri M. M. Das: Not only the Health Ministry, but also the Ministry of Agriculture is concerned with research and cultivation of medicinal herbs in this country. There is a joint meeting of the three Ministries. The Education Ministry which is in charge of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Health Ministry, which is in charge of the Indian Council for Medical Research and the Agriculture Ministry, which is in charge of the Council for Agricultural Research, have formed a joint Committee which is known as the Medicinal Plants Committee. This Committee has recommended the establishment of a Central Indian Medicinal Plant Organisation. This Organisation will explore the available resources to stimulate cultivation of medicinal plants and the production of drugs from them.

Shri S. C. Samanta: From the statement I find that there is no mention of any emetine hydrochloride to be extracted from the roots of ipecac by the Central Government. May I know whether any State Government is doing any such research work?

Shri M. M. Das: If the hon. Member goes into such detail as to the preparation of particular type of medicine from particular type of herbs, I am sorry, I should have notice.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know the financial provision for this research work during the Second Plan?

Shri M. M. Das: The Planning Commission has agreed to an allocation of Rs. 75 lakhs to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research for research on medicinal herbs during

the Second Plan Period. There is also a provision of Rs. 20 lakhs for the setting up of five units for therapeutic trials of new drugs and for the development of the department of herbs by the Indian Council of Medical Research. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research have also their own funds for this purpose.

Shri Shankariah: May I know whether any Research units have been opened in the Himalayas and Western Ghats to find out new herbs and make research?

Shri M. M. Das: That work is done by the Botanical Survey of India, which has divided the country into four zones with separate headquarters. Himalayas have been divided into two zones along with other parts of the country, the Eastern Circle and the Northern Circle. The Western part of Himalayas comes under the Northern Circle, Garhwal, Jammu, Kashmir, etc., and the Eastern part, Assam, Bengal, Darjeeling etc., come under the Eastern Circle.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury: Are any ayurvedic experts connected with this research work?

Shri M. M. Das: I am sorry, that particular information is not at my disposal at present.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: May I know whether any manufacture has been started of the derivatives of a herb called rauwolfia serpentina and if so, whether the Government are permitting export of that drug?

Shri M. M. Das: Manufacture has certainly been taken up not only by the medicine manufacturing companies of India but also by foreign firms upon that drug rauwolfia serpentina.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: May I know whether the Government are still permitting export of the raw herb rauwolfia serpentina?

Shri M. M. Das: I should like to
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Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri M. R. Krishna: 541.

Shriroati Manjula Devi: Question No. 578 may also be taken.

Some Hon. Members: That is on a different matter.

Mr. Speaker: Let 541 be answered.

Free Legal Assistance

*541. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether free legal assistance is given by the Central Government to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes in all the States;

(b) if so, the names of the States where this facility is not given; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): (a) It is for the State Governments to give legal assistance to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Central Government shares 50% of the cost if any State Government takes up such a scheme.

(b) and (c). Information has been called for from the State Governments and a statement will be laid on the Table of Lok Sabha as soon as it has been received.

Shri M. R. Krishna: What is the nature of the cases for which the Scheduled Castes are entitled to get this free legal assistance?

Shrimati Alva: They are mainly ejection cases.

Shri M. R. Krishna: What is the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who have received this assistance so far, and may I know whether proper publicity has been given to this assistance so that many could avail of this opportunity?

Shrimati Alva: We have no such details. I have answered in (b) and (c)