

[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। 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