

**SHRI L. P. SHAHI :** The languages to be kept in the Eighth Schedule were decided long ago. It is the subject-matter of the Home Ministry. So far other languages, besides those covered in the Eighth Schedule are concerned, we take up steps for their development. So, there is a difference between the two. If a language exists it should be developed to make it available at least for the Primary School teaching so that the students in their early schooling should have the language of their homes.

[Translation]

**SHRI SHIV PRASAD SAHU :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, like me the hon. Minister also belongs to Bihar. (Interruptions)

**MR. SPEAKER :** No personal matters here, please.

**SHRI SHIV PRASAD SAHU :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hail from an area inhabited by Adivasis. Among them are more than 10 lakh Oraons who speak Oraon. Other languages spoken in that area are Mundari and Ho. Besides these, Tharus who speak Tharu reside in Champaran district. The hon. Minister said that the Eighth Schedule includes languages which were recognised earlier. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether any funds have been allocated for the development of Oraon, and Mundari languages spoken by more than 10 lakh people: if so, the amount thereof; and if not, the steps proposed to be taken for their development ?

**SHRI L. P. SHAHI :** Funds are not allocated language-wise for their development. Instead funds are made available to an Institute which then takes up development work. The first step towards the development of a language is that cultural songs related to the lives of the people are published. For instance, in case of Adivasia, songs related to the seasons and the activities such as sowing and harvesting of paddy are published. This is how we are gradually making progress. For any language, the number of people who speak it, is not taken into account. What

is seen is how far it is convenient to the people. No language is included in the Eighth Schedule on the basis of the number of the people who speak it.

[English]

**Saplings of Medicinal Values under  
Afforestation Programme**

\*431. **DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether under afforestation programme saplings of medicinal values are being planted adequately on a top priority basis in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :** (a) to (c) Under the afforestation programme top priority is given to plant trees yielding timber, fuelwood and fodder to meet the needs of the people. However, many of the commonly planted species also have medicinal value. No separate information is maintained in respect of medicinal species planted.

**DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI :** Sir, the hon. Minister has very clearly stated that top priority is being given to plant trees yielding timber, fuelwood and fodder. The hon. Minister might fully be acquainted with the fact that these can be substituted by other materials, by making various efforts either through the private agencies or at the governmental level. For example, iron, cement and other things are there which can be used in place of timber. So also, LPG can be used in place of fuel-wood.

Secondly, plantation of these trees on a top priority basis is creating a very adverse effect particularly in the field of irrigational facilities. Simultaneously, these trees are also creating certain health

hazards. I may quote for the information of the hon. Minister the example of eucalyptus trees. Plantation of these trees is not only leading to lowering of water table, but simultaneously it is also creating some asthmatic trouble to persons residing in that area.

At present, ecological balance is of utmost importance. The entire world is facing acute problem of pollution. Keeping the need to combat pollution in view, will the hon. Minister see to it that these trees which are useful in anti-pollution measures like peepal, neem, etc. are planted more and more?

**SHRI Z. R. ANSARI :** The hon. member has correctly said that while planting trees, we should see the local agro-climatic conditions also. And a policy decision has been taken not to plant trees of one variety only and it has been decided that the trees planted should be of many varieties, of course, taking into account the local agro-climatic conditions. Also, the thrust of the strategy for planting trees is conservation of ecologically fragile areas, increasing the vegetative cover substantially by massive afforestation to meet the basic needs of the people for small timber, fuel-wood and fodder. In spite of the fact that lots of developments are taking place for alternative sources of fuel, even today we are badly in shortage of these three things for the local population. That is why, there is pressure all the more on the forest areas. In order to release this pressure on our forests, we have a plan for afforestation to meet these basic needs. This is our strategy presently.

**DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI :** Needless to say, Government is very much interested in improving the economic conditions of our millions and millions of farmers in the country and simultaneously to make cheaper, effective and safer drugs available to the millions and millions of our poor masses. Keeping this in view what steps is the Ministry taking to cultivate medicinal plants, particularly to improve the economic conditions of the farmers in the country?

**SHRI Z. R. ANSARI :** As I have

already stated, many of the plants which are planted have medicinal value. Actually, whatever nature has given us, is in one way or the other beneficial to the life system. But specifically for the known species which have got medicinal value, there is a centrally sponsored scheme for 'cultivation of plants having medicinal value', for which an outlay of Rs. 500 lakhs has been made in the Seventh Five Year Plan and it will be taken up from the year 1988-89.

**SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN :** The question regarding plants of medicinal value has come. I would like to know from the Minister of Human Resource Development who is present here and also from the other Minister—the Minister of Environment—whether they know that in the State of Mizoram in the North-East incidence of blood pressure is practically nil and of heart failure, it is almost nil?

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** At the time of elections, it has gone up.

**SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN :** Because of this sort of a situation, a study was carried out by the Pharmacological Department of the Assam Medical College under Dr. Neogi and it was found that a particular kind of creeper called *Puinam* in Mizoram is taken in the form of soup by Mizos. Because of frequent consumption of this creeper in the form of soup, the Mizos do not suffer from high blood pressure and they do not have heart failures as well. So, I would like to know from the hon. Ministers—either of them can reply—whether they would look into this particular matter and if necessary carry out another investigation in this particular research in respect of *Puinam* creeper.

**SHRI Z. R. ANSARI :** This question is specifically directed towards the Health Minister. I do not know whether the Health Minister would like to give a reply to it. But Sir, this question should be directed towards the Health Minister.

**MR. SPEAKER :** You say that the suggestion will be passed on.

**SHRI Z. R. ANSARI :** As far as planting of this herbal plant is concerned, we have a scheme and we have provided Gujarat, Manipur, North-Eastern Council States and U.P. certain amount for growing plants of medicinal value.

[Translation]

**SHRI ARVIND NETAM :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the medicinal plants are brought into the market from the areas where these are grown, their prices escalate. But the people who are engaged in actually growing these plants in jungles are unaware of their market prices. Is this not a case of wanton exploitation? A day will come when only the medicinal plants would be grown in view of their commercial value and this could destroy these plants. May I ask the hon. Minister if the Government has any separate Scheme for this?

**SHRI Z. R. ANSARI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the existing system, tribals residing in forest areas have greater knowledge of medicinal plants than anyone else. Medicinal plants are brought from forests by the tribals as a minor forest produce and sold through middlemen. I do not deny that where there are middlemen exploitation is there. So, a certain amount of exploitation may be there. This matter definitely needs a close look. So far as the question of growing medicinal plants is concerned, I have given the reply.

[Translation]

**Airlink for Khajuraho from Bombay-  
Calcutta**

\*432. **SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA :** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent a proposal to introduce new air service between Bombay-Aurangabad-Bhopal-Khajuraho - Calcutta with a view to connect Khajuraho direct with Bombay and Calcutta;

(b) if so, the time by which this

important air service is likely to be started and;

(c) whether survey of this route has been conducted from commercial point of view?

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While there is no proposal to connect Khajuraho with Calcutta, a proposal to connect Bombay, Aurangabad and Bhopal with Khajuraho is under consideration which would depend upon the availability of traffic and additional aircraft capacity.

(c) No, Sir. Indian Airlines is, however, doing the survey on the route mentioned in part (a) of the Question.

[Translation]

**SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation has given the answer in the affirmative. But this has been so for the last 2-3 years. For the past 3 years the Madhya Pradesh Government has continuously been sending proposals to connect Khajuraho with Bombay-Aurangabad-Delhi and Calcutta.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Shri Bhanu, please see how far it is in the affirmative.

**SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA :** Keeping in view the number of aircraft available, may I know whether the Government will seriously consider connecting Khajuraho with Bombay, Aurangabad and Calcutta and whether there is any time-bound programme in this regard?

**SHRI MOTI LAL VORA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the proposal received from the State Government relates to the introduction of an air service between