

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव]

मिस्र पर हुकूम कर दे, वा चुपचाप इनकम-
 टैक्स आफिसर के कान में फूँक धार दे और
 पीछे से स्टैंड कर दे ।

उनाभ्यक्ष सहोदय : इन निहायत जरूरी
 बातों को कहने के बाद क्या माननीय सदस्य
 अब सत्य कर देंगे ?

पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव । मैं चाहूंगा
 कि जनाब मुझे बोझा और मीका दें । मैंने
 अभी दो तीन बातें ही भर्षा की हैं । अभी
 मैंने और कई जरूरी बातें कहनी हैं ।

उनाभ्यक्ष सहोदय : प्रच्छा, माननीय
 सदस्य परसों अपनी स्वीच जारी रखेंगे ।

DISCUSSION REGARDING MEDI-
 CINAL PLANTS ORGANISATION
 AND UTILISATION OF CRUDE
 DRUGS

Shri V. P. Nayar (Quilon): Mr.
 Deputy-Speaker, I want to raise three
 points:

(a) The lack of proper co-ordi-
 nation in the activities of the
 Central Government regarding the
 utilisation of crude drugs;

(b) The urgency of a compre-
 hensive scheme for the use of
 Indian crude drugs to save foreign
 exchange spent on import of pro-
 ducts of vegetable origin; and

(c) The urgency of carrying on
 researches to utilise the Indian
 medicinal plants.

Fortunately for us, Sir, the debate
 is to be replied by Dr. Das who has
 the equipment to understand the
 points and the problems. Sir, in this
 connection it is interesting to note
 what the Pharmaceutical Enquiry
 Committee had to say in relation to
 the matter of crude drugs. Here at
 page 88 of the Committee's Report
 they say:

"India abounds in medicinal plants

and more than 75 per cent
 of the drugs of vegetable origina
 mentioned in the British Pharma-
 copoeia are available in the
 country."

Later on they go on to say—

"This (that is, extraction of the
 active principles) will add to the
 economic resources of the State
 and help to meet the needs of the
 Pharmaceutical Industry."

The other day when I put a ques-
 tion, I was surprised to find from the
 answer given by the Commerce and
 Industry Minister, that this very im-
 portant product, namely the active
 principles of crude drugs are not be-
 ing produced even to a fraction of our
 requirements. I find also from the
 answer to Question No. 85, on the 18th
 July, that the following are the only
 active principles extracted from crude
 drugs in India at present. quinine,
 morphine and codeine, emetine hydro-
 chloride, ephedrine, reserpine and
 caffeine, and most of them, except
 quinine are in very very negligible
 quantities, although it would be said
 that in addition a number of pharma-
 ceutical works in the country produce
 extracts and tinctures of vegetable
 drugs I shall come to that a little
 later

Then, Sir, I do not have any precise
 information about the foreign ex-
 change which we spend on the import
 of these alkaloids, because in the lists,
 or in the statistics of imports they are
 not maintained separately There-
 fore, I am unable to give the House
 an idea of the exact amount which
 we have to spend for importing these
 in the shape of foreign exchange.

All this happens because our country
 has so far had no integrated plan, no
 comprehensive scheme, for the deve-
 lopment of this industry which is of
 vital significance to the entire phar-
 maceutical industry We abound in
 plants of known medicinal value. I
 do not want to bombard the House
 with names, but from the Manual re-
 garding the flora and fauna of Kerala
 I have found that there are so many

plants with known medicinal value. It will be interesting for the House to know that in the rich forests of Kerala we have plants which grow wild with known medicinal value, including emetic, antipyretic, diuretic, antihelmuthic, antiperiodic, tonic, digestive, rubifacient and alliative properties. With all this herbal wealth, what are we doing? We do not seem to have paid any thought.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member said that he would not bombard the House.....

Shri V. P. Nayar: They are all common words.

Shri Ferose Gandhi (Rai Bareli): You can make it intelligible to us!

Shri V. P. Nayar: The Government of India has not bestowed any serious thought to this subject. The state of this industry is very primitive. We have necessarily to depend upon imported drugs and these drugs are imported into this country not after being made in other countries from the raw materials which they have. You will be surprised to know, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, that most of the drugs come back in their finished stage, when we export the crude drugs. Take the case of muxvomica. We export it in thousands of pounds and it comes back to us at very inflated costs as strychnine. Like that I can point out any number of instances

This particular subject is covered by a number of Ministries. The Education Ministry has something to do with it; Commerce and Industry Ministry has something to do with it; the Ministry of Health has something to do with it. Owing to the multiplicity of controls . . .

The Deputy Minister of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. M. M. Das): There is also the Agriculture Ministry.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Yes; as my hon friend, the Deputy Minister, has very rightly pointed out, the Ministry of Agriculture has also something to do with it. All these Ministries are controlling a single subject and the net result is that the industry has not progressed. It is to the very serious detriment not merely of our pharmaceutical industry but to our entire Industry these plants are not merely used for the extraction of alkaloids, but they are used in many other ways also.

I shall read out with interest what great work one of our scientists had done in the matter of extracting one of the products from a plant growing wildly in the south. I am reading from the *Indian Journal of Medical Science* published from Delhi, where scientists work....

Shri Subodh Hasda (Midnapur—Reserved—Sch. Tribes): There is no quorum.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The bell may be rung.

Still there is no quorum. Direction No. 19 on Half-an-hour Discussion reads as follows:

“When half-an-hour discussion under sub-rule (1) of rule (1) of rule 55 is interrupted for want of quorum or when there is no time for the Minister to give a full reply to the debate, he may, with the permission of the Speaker, lay a statement on the Table of the House.”

So, the Minister will lay* a statement on the Table of the House. We are adjourning; there is no other alternative.

The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. on Monday.

17:40 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 2nd September, 1957.

*Laid on the Table on 12th September 1957.