

ORDINARY, MS.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O., DATED 29. 9. 93

No. 807.

INDEXED.*When given for copying.*

[Despatch Abstract.]

Forward to the Surgeon General for
early action, copies of the question
framed by the Indian Hemp Drugs
Commission for communication
to the Medical Experts, &c.

Note.—All communications should be addressed to the Secretary Indian Hemp Drugs Commission Camp, without the addition of any Post town.

No. 95.

FROM

H. J. McINTOSH, Esq.

Secretary, Indian Hemp Drugs Commission.

TO



The Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Poona, 18th September 1893.

SIR,

In continuation of para 5 of my letter No. 34, dated 12th August, 1893. I am directed to forward* 100 copies of a series of questions for

communication to Medical experts, and to request that with the permission of *His Excellency the Governor in Council*

they may be distributed to selected Medical officers, European and Native, who may be able to give information of value. I am also to request that some copies may be distributed to private native medical practitioners of repute from whom the Commission have reason to believe that valuable information will be forthcoming.

2. The Commission are especially desirous of obtaining the views of Subordinate Native Medical Officers whose duties bring them into contact with the people, and they would suggest that the views of competent officers of this class should be either separately obtained or embodied in the replies received from Civil Surgeons.

3. It is requested that the replies to these questions may be despatched in time to reach the Commission before the *1st December 1893*.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

Secretary, Indian Hemp Drugs Commission.

INSTRUCTIONS TO WITNESSES.

The questions are printed on half-margin, with some space between the questions. It is desirable that when the answer is brief, it should be written in the blank space opposite the question. More space will, however, be required to answer some of the questions. In these cases the answer should be written on a separate sheet, a reference being made to it in the margin.

2. It is not intended that every witness should answer all these questions. It is desirable that each witness should confine himself to those questions which deal with parts of the subject with which he is more or less acquainted. The witness should indicate the source of his information and the facts and experiences on which he bases his opinions and statements.

3. If any witness has any information to give which does not seem to fall under any of these questions, he should append it as a separate Note to the chapter under which it seems naturally to fall, or record it at the end of his evidence. The questions are not to be regarded as exhaustive. They are intended rather to serve as a guide to the witnesses as to the subjects to which their attention should specially be directed. No evidence should be withheld merely because it is not indicated.

4. Attention is specially invited to the necessity for distinguishing between the different narcotic products of the hemp plant (gánja, charas, and bháng), between the different methods of using these products, and between each of these products and any preparations of it involving the admixture of other drugs. Unless this is carefully borne in mind by the witness, confusion will result which must render his evidence on many points of little or no value.

5. The answers to these questions should be submitted as early as possible. They should be sent to the Commission direct, addressed to the Secretary, Indian Hemp Drugs Commission, Camp.

MEDICAL EVIDENCE BEFORE THE
INDIAN HEMP DRUGS COMMISSION,
1893-94.

Name of witness—

Occupation—

Residence—

Race or Caste—

INTRODUCTORY.

1. What opportunities have you had of obtaining information regarding the matters connected with hemp drugs in regard to which your answers are framed?

2. In Dr. Prain's report of 21st June 1893, on the cultivation and use of gánja in Bengal, it is stated that "in India three narcotic articles are obtained naturally from hemp. These are, siddhi or bháng, charas and gánja." They are thus defined by Dr. Prain: "Siddhi, bháng, sabji or patti, are different names applied to the dry leaves of the hemp plant, whether male or female, and whether cultivated or uncultivated.

"Charas is the name applied to the resinous matter which forms the active principle of the plant when collected separately.

"Gánja consists of the dried flowering-tops of cultivated female hemp plants which have become coated with resin in consequence of having been unable to set seeds freely. The formation of seeds is prevented by the destruction of all the male plants.

"Three varieties of gánja are sold. Gánja is usually manufactured by being trodden under foot, so that the agglutinated flower-tops assume a flattened shape. This is "Flat gánja." The other sort of gánja is not trodden, but rolled under foot, so that the agglutinated flower-tops are less closely adherent, and assume a rounded shape. This is "Round gánja." The flower-tops of gánja detached from the twigs, whether of flat or of round gánja, and whether the detachment has been accidental or deliberate, form "chur" or "Broken gánja."

May these definitions be accepted for your province? By what name is each of these products locally known?

QUESTIONS.

NOTE.—It is very important in answering the following questions to distinguish carefully between gánja, charas and bháng. The answer should deal only with the form of hemp known to witness, and should clearly specify in each case the form or forms to which his statements apply, and the particular experiences on which they are based. Question 56 deals with the effect of admixtures. This should also be referred to in answering any question where any such admixture generally affects the case. But the answer ought, in the first instance, to deal with the effect of the hemp drug apart from any such admixture.

19. Are gánja and charas used only for smoking? If not, name any other uses to which either is put, with particulars as to such uses, and the places where they are prevalent.

23. Is bháng ever used for smoking? If so, in what localities, by what classes of the people, and to what extent?

28. What is the average allowance and cost of each of these drugs per diem to—

(a) Habitual moderate consumers?

(b) Habitual excessive consumers?

29. What ingredients are (a) ordinarily or (b) exceptionally mixed with any of these drugs by the different classes of consumers? Is dhatura, opium, nux-vomica, cantharides or betel-nut so used? What is the object of these admixtures?

Do you know of any preparation (such as "bháng massala") which is sold for the purpose of being mixed with any of these drugs? Describe its ingredients.

30. To what extent is the consumption of each of these three drugs practised in solitude or in company? Is it mainly confined to the male sex or to any time of life? Is it usual for children to consume any of these drugs?

31. Is the habit of consuming any of these drugs easily formed? Is it difficult to break off? Is there a tendency in the case of any of these drugs for the moderate habit to develop into the excessive?

32. Mention any customs, social or religious, in regard to the consumption of any of these drugs. Give an account of every such custom. Is the use of the drug in connection with such custom regarded as essential? Is it generally temperate or excessive? Is it likely to lead to the formation of the habit, or otherwise injurious?

36. Is there any reason for thinking that alcohol is now being to a certain extent substituted for any of these drugs? If so, to what causes do you attribute this change, and what proof is there of its reality?

37. Are the effects of charas smoking different in any particular from those resulting from ganja smoking; and does the drinking of bháng differ in its effects from either or both of these? If so, state the difference.

39. Is the smoking of any preparation of the hemp plant in any way a less injurious form of consumption than drinking or eating the same or any other preparation? Give reasons for your answer, and treat the subject both in reference to the general effect of the drugs on the constitution, and also with respect to any supposed tendency towards producing insanity.

40. Is the use of any of these drugs prescribed on account of its medicinal properties by any school of Native Doctors? Are any of them used in the treatment of cattle disease?

41. May the moderate use of charas, ganja, or bháng be beneficial in its effects—
 (a) as a food accessory or digestive;
 (b) to give staying-power under severe exertion or exposure, or to alleviate fatigue;
 (c) as a febrifuge or preventive of disease in malarious and unhealthy tracts;
 (d) in any other way.

42. If not beneficial, do you consider the moderate use of any of these drugs to be harmless? Give reasons for your answer.

44. What is the immediate effect of the moderate use of any of these drugs on the habitual consumer? Is it refreshing? Does it produce intoxication? Does it allay hunger? Does it create appetite? How long does the effect last? Are there any after-effects? Does the want of subsequent gratification produce any longing or uneasiness?

45. Does the habitual *moderate* use of any of these drugs produce any noxious effects—physical, mental, or moral?

Does it impair the constitution in any way?

Does it injure the digestion or cause loss of appetite?

Does it cause dysentery, bronchitis, or asthma?

Does it impair the moral sense or induce laziness or habits of immorality or debauchery?

Does it deaden the intellect or produce insanity? In cases known to you when it has produced insanity, has it appeared to you to be merely the *exciting* as distinguished from the *predisposing* cause of the insanity? If it produces insanity, then of what type, and is it temporary or permanent? If temporary, may the symptoms be reinduced by use of the drug after liberation from restraint? Are there any typical symptoms? Do insanes who have no recorded *ganja* history confess to the use of the drug?

In such cases of the alleged connection between insanity and the use of hemp as are known to you, are you of opinion that the use of the drug by persons suffering from mental anxiety or brain disease to obtain relief has been sufficiently considered in explaining that connection? And do you think there is any evidence to indicate that insanity may often tend to indulgence in the use of hemp drugs by a person who is deficient in self-control through weakened intellect?

Give an account under each of these points of any cases with which you are acquainted.

46. Discuss the same question in regard to the habitual *excessive* use of any of these drugs.

47. Does the habitual *moderate* use of any of these drugs appear to be a hereditary habit or to affect in any way the children of the moderate consumer?

48. Discuss the same question in regard to the habitual *excessive* use of any of these drugs.

49. Is the *moderate* use of any of these drugs practised as an aphrodisiac? Is it so used by prostitutes? Is the use for this purpose more injurious than its use as an ordinary narcotic, and if so, how? Does the use of hemp tend to produce impotence?

50. Discuss the same question in regard to the *excessive* use of any of these drugs.

56. How are the effects of hemp used (a) in *moderation* and (b) in *excess*, modified by the admixture of other substances? Note specially any information you possess regarding the admixture of dhatura, nuxvomica, cantharides, opium or betel-nut for personal consumption or for administration to others.

57. Gánja and charas are said sometimes to be eaten or drunk. Where this is the case, give your experience as to the effects, dealing separately with any of the heads in the preceding questions which seem to require notice.

57a. Is there any information or are there any opinions which you desire to lay before the Commission in connection with these drugs? Record them fully and freely.

U. G., 604

The U. G. Com. has forwarded
100 sets of these questions
If they are to be forwarded to G. G., write
or wire me to that
effect please

U. G.

DEPARTMENT.

From

The Secretary, Indian Hemp & Drugs
Commission

No. 95

Dated 18th September 1893

Received 21 —————

Enclosures

S. C. 4. 1760

SUBJECT.

Forwarding copies of a series
of questions for communication to
Medical reports, and requesting that
they may be distributed to selected
Medical Officers.

H. m
Hrio

Order 29th Sep 1893.
N^o 807. ^{Wes} 29th Sep.

N^o. 807. 1924.
Comm^d and ^{the} copies of
questions forwarded to the
Surgeon General for early
action

28/9/93

Note.

Questions rec^d last evening
only - hence delay.

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28/9

To The Surgeon General (interg 2 copies)
 " River Dept (interg 2 copies)
 with one copy DESPATCHED 7/4/63

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