CHAPTER VII

PLANTS OF ECONOMIC, MEDICINAL & FODDER VALUE

The forests in Yavatmal district abound in economically and medicinally important plants, some of which are being exploited by the local people. Quite a few fodder species have also been found here which solve the grazing problem of cattle.

(i) Plants of economic importance:

Some of the economically viable plants for their known uses are enumerated below to help the local people in exploiting them profitably.

The floss of Calotropis gigantea and Cochlospermum religiosum are used in stuffing pillows and mattresses.

The fibres of the following plants can be used for rope making: Abutilon indicum, Agave americana, Butea superba, Crotalaria juncea, C. retusa, C. spectabilis, Cryptolepis buchananii, Helicteres isora, Sida rhombifolia and Wattakaka volubilis.

The pith of Aeschynomene indica has been traditionally in use in making topis.

From Borassus flabellifer toddy is extracted; the fruits are also edible.

The species such as Blumea eriantha, B. lacera, Cymbopogon martinii and Santalum album possess essential oils.

Tectona trees cut and being transported.

The plants yielding gum are Acacia leucophloea, A. nilotica ssp. indica and Boswellia serrata.

The leaves, bark or pods of the following species are used in tanning industry : Acacia farnesiana. A. leucophloea, A. nilotica ssp. indica, A. pinnata, Albizia lebbeck, Anogeissus latifolia, Bridelia retusa, Casearia elliptica, Cassia fistula, Terminalia arjuna, T. bellirica and Woodfordia fruticosa.

The seeds of Cassia tora are used in Indigo dyeing.

There are many species whose wood is used in making agricultural implements, structural work, packing cases, construction work, cabinet making or cheap furniture making etc. They are Acacia leucophloea, A. nilotica ssp. indica, Ailanthus excelsa, Alangium salvifolium, Albizia procera, Barringtonia acutangula, Bauhinia purpurea, Bridelia retusa, Buchanania lanzan, Butea monosperma, Cassia fistula, Cleistanthus collinus, Cordia macleodii, Dodonaea viscosa and Eriolaena hookeriana.

Many tree species have the potentiality of good timber value apart from Tectona grandis which is widely occurring in these forests. Some such species are Albizia lebbeck, Anogeissus latifolia, Antidesma acidum, Boswellia serrata, Ceriscoides turgida, Chloroxylon swietenia, Dalbergia latifolia, D. sissoo, Gardenia latifolia, Kydia calycina,

Lagerstroemia parviflora, Mitragyna parvifolia, Pterocarpus marsupium, Sapindus emarginata, Schrebera swietenioides, Semecarpus anacardium, Soymida febrifuga, Sterculia urens, Terminalia alata, T. arjuna and T. bellirica.

For making brooms Aristida setacea is very useful. The stems of Combretum albidum are used in making baskets. The leaves of Diospyros melanoxylon are used in bidi making. Incidentally, the Forest Department's income from auctioning 'Tendu' leaves is sizable.

The edible fruits of Trapa natans var. bispinosa are collected by local people to sell in the market.

There is scope to exploit in a better way the fruits of Emblica officinalis which is available in abundance during the fruiting season.

(ii) Plants of medicinal importance:

Species which are known to possess medicinal properties (Anonymous, 1948 - 1976) in their leaves, stems and roots are abundant in these forests. Some of them are Abutilon indicum, Acalypha indica, Achyranthes aspera, Aerva lanata, Ageratum conyzoides, Amberboa ramosa, Ammannia baccifera, Amorphophallus sylvaticus, Andrographis paniculata, Anisomeles indica, A. malabarica, Argemone mexicana, Bacopa monnieri, Baliospermum montanum, Barleria prionitis, Biophytum sensitivum, Boerhavia diffusa, Canscora decussata,

Cardiospermum halicacabum, Cassia absus, Cassytha filiformis, Cayratia trifolia, Celastrus paniculatus, Chrozophora prostrata, C. rottleri, Clerodendrum serratum, Clitoria ternatea, Cocculus hirsutus, Crinum asiaticum, C. defixum, Crotalaria medicaginea, Curculigo orchioides, Cuscuta reflexa, Datura stramonium, Dendrophthoe falcata, Desmodium gangeticum, Dioscorea bulbifera, Dipteracanthus prostratus, Dolichandrone falcata, Echinops echinatus, Elytraria acaulis, Emilia sonchifolia, Eranthemum roseum, Eupatorium triplinerve, Euphorbia dracunculoides, E. hirta, E. neriifolia, E. thymifolia, Evolvulus alsinoides, Exacum pedunculatum, Glinus lotoides, Gloriosa superba, Haplanthodes verticillata, Hemidesmus indicus, Homonoia riparia, Hoppea dichotoma, Hybanthus enneaspermus, Hyptis suaveolens, Impatiens balsamina, Indigofera linifolia, I. linnaei, I. tinctoria, Iphigenia indica, Ipomoea obscura, Ixora arborea, Leea asiatica, L. macrophylla, Leonotis nepetifolia, Leucas aspera, L. cephalotes, Lindernia crustacea, Ludwigia perennis, Malvastrum coromandelianum, Martynia annua, Mollugo pentaphylla, Moringa concanensis, Nyctanthes arbor-tristis, Nymphaea nouchali, Olax scandens, Oxystelma secamone, Pergularia daemia, Phyllanthus fraternus, P. maderaspatensis, P. urinaria, Physalis minima, Pistia stratiotes, Polygala arvensis, Polygonum glabrum, P. plebeium, Portulaca oleracea, P. quadrifida, Psoralea corylifolia, Rotula aquatica, Rungia pectinata, R. repens,

Salvia plebeia, Scilla hyacinthina, Sida acuta, Solanum nigrum, S. surattense, Sonchus oleraceus, Sphaeranthus indicus, Stemodia viscosa, Strychnos potatorum, Tamarix ericoides, Tephrosia purpurea, Teramnus labialis, Tragia plukenetii, Trianthema portulacastrum, Tribulus terrestris, Trichodesma indicum, T. zeylanicum, Tridax procumbens, Triumfetta rotundifolia, Uraria picta, U. rufescens, Utricularia caerulea, Vallisneria spiralis, Vanda tessellata, Ventilago denticulata, Vernonia cinerea, Vicoa indica, Wrightia tinctoria ssp. rothii, Xanthium strumarium and Xenostegia tridentata.

(iii) Plants of fodder value:

The people living around forests require fodder to feed their cattle. There are a number of grass species growing in the forests and especially in the Jodmoha grass farm. In addition, a few herbs and leaves and young shoots of some tree species are also used as fodder.

The common grasses of fodder value are Andropogon pumilus, Brachiaria eruciformis, B. ramosa, Chloris dolichostachya, Cynodon dactylon, Dactyloctenium aegyptium, Dichanthium annulatum, D. pertusum, Dinebra retroflexa, Eleusine indica, Eragrostiella bifaria, Eragrostis tenella, E. tremula, E. unioloides, E. viscosa, Eremopogon foveolatus, Eriochloa procera, Hackelochloa granularis, Heteropogon contortus, Ischaemum rugosum, Iseilema anthephoroides, I. laxum, Oplismenus burmannii, Panicum psilopodium,

Cattle grazing in forest land.

Paspalidium flavidum, P. geminatum, Pennisetum pedicellatum, Perotis indica, Sehima nervosum, S. sulcatum, Setaria pumila, Sporobolus indicus var. diander and Urochloa panicoides.

Some of the herbs and the trees whose young shoots and leaves are used as fodder are Acacia nilotica ssp. indica, Achyranthes aspera, Albizia lebbeck, Alysicarpus rugosus, A. vaginalis, Butea monosperma, Cassia occidentalis, Cyanotis cristata, Desmodium dichotomum, D. triflorum, Dichrostachys cinerea, Diospyros chloroxylon, Emblica officinalis, Ficus benghalensis, Indigofera cordifolia, I. glandulosa, Ipomoea aquatica, I. eriocarpa, I. pes-tigridis, Kydia calycina, Lagerstroemia parviflora, Lepidagathis cristata, Melia azedarach, Melilotus indica, Rhynchosia minima, Tinospora cordifolia, Vigna trilobata, Ziziphus mauritiana etc .