

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:153  
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2003  
POPULARISATION OF HERBAL MEDICINES  
ANANTRAO GUDHE

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to assess the popularity of the Indian herbal medicines in the global market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in collaboration with Indian industries to promote Indian herbal medicines in the global market?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a)to(d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 153 FOR 30.7.2003

(a)to(c): The Government funded a market survey for herbal products in the USA. The Government has also implemented a scheme to provide assistance to industry for conducting market survey. Department of Commerce is also funding market survey under Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Programme. The Government is, however, aware of the popularity of Indian herbal medicines in several countries.

(d) The following steps have been taken to promote Indian herbal medicines in the global market:

- (i) The Government has established National Medicinal Plants Board for integrated development of medicinal plants sector.
- (ii) Government have sent official delegations comprising trade representatives to various countries to promote ISM&H drugs.
- (iii) Government is also supporting industry to participate in International Trade Fairs to exhibit their products. Schemes are also in place for funding market surveys.
- (iv) Labeling provisions have been relaxed to facilitate exports.
- (v) Testing facilities are being expanded.
- (vi) Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) have been notified.
- (vii) This Department's Research Councils are carrying on research of ISM&H drugs.
- (viii) Department of Biotechnology has also supported research and development projects on medicinal and aromatic plants used in the country.
- (ix) A Task force has been set up to make recommendations for increasing exports.