

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:140
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2000
MISSION FOR HERBAL PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up a Mission for the development of Herbal products;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the specific plans proposed by the Government to give a boost to the production of Herbal products;
- (d) whether an Institute is likely to be set up for this purpose; and
- (e) if so, the details in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 140 TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2000-REGAF
MISSION FOR HERBAL PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT

Yes Sir, A National Jai Vigyan Science & Technology Mission project on 'Biotechnological Approaches for Herbal Product Development' is under implementation. The objective is to convert the available research leads into potential herbal products. The Institutions implementing the project are: Central Institute of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Lucknow; National Institute of Immunology (NII), New Delhi; Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi and Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Jammu. The focus is on : the improvement of production of ergot, a parasitic fungus on rye that is a source of therapeutically useful alkaloids; improvement of agrotechnology for a high-yielding variety 'Jeevan Raksha' of an antimalarial plant; a herbal extract 'NII-70' isolated from guduchi plant for promoting in vitro growth of bone marrow cells; standardization of a herbal extract 'BHUX' on animal models for the management of hyperlipidaemia and isolation of immunomodulatory agents from garlics and shallaki.

Various Ministries/institutions have undertaken programmes/schemes to give a boost to production of herbal products through initiatives for conservation, cultivation and genetic improvement of several species of medicinal and aromatic plants. There is no specific proposal for the setting up of an institute for this purpose. The existing institutions and facilities have been utilized to accelerate research and development on herbal products.