

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1732

ANSWERED ON:05.12.2005

PROMOTION OF HERBAL AGRICULTURE

Prasad Shri Hari Kewal;Singh Deo Smt. Sangeeta Kumari

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made any efforts to promote herbal agriculture;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the achievements made by the Government as a result thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. The Government has set up National Medicinal Plants Board under the Chairmanship of Union Health & Family Welfare Minister with a view to protect sustain and develop medicinal plants sector. The Board is responsible for coordination of all matters relating to medicinal plants, including drawing up policies and strategies for their conservation, proper harvesting, cost-effective cultivation, research and development, processing and marketing of raw material.

(c): National Medicinal Plants Board has formulated and implemented promotional, commercial and contractual farming schemes for providing financial assistance for development of medicinal plants sector. During the last three years (2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05), more than 2900 projects involving financial assistance of Rs.75.00 crore have been sanctioned and 72,000 acre land has been covered under cultivation of various prioritized medicinal plants. Under the promotional scheme, 590 projects involving financial outlay of about Rs.72.57 crore have been sanctioned and nearly 65,000 acres land has been covered under promotional schemes involving activities like in-situ / ex-situ conservation and raising of herbal gardens. So far 32 State Medicinal Plants Boards have been set up (27 States and 5 UTs) for concerted effort to promote herbal agriculture in the country.