

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2799
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2006
PATENT PROTECTION FOR INDIGENOUS COMPOUND
Gandhi Smt. Maneka

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

- (a) whether the herbal compound jeevani, made from indigenous medicinal plant extracts, was developed by the tropical Botanical Garden & Research Institute eight years ago with the active participation of the tribals of Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that a US food supplement manufacturer Great Earth Companies Inc. has secured trademark rights for Jeevani and is using its product "jeevani Jolt 2000" although the ingredients are the same as used in our indigenous compound;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reasons for the Government not procuring international patent protection for the indigenous compound even after all these years?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a)&(b): The Jeevani is a herbal drug prepared from the extract of four medicinal plant namely *Trichopus zeylanicus*, *Withania Somnifera*, *Piper longum*, and *Evolvulus alsimoides*. The drug was developed by Tropical Botanical Garden and Research Institute (TBGRI) Thiruvananthapuram. The lead for using the plant *Trichopus zeylanicus*, in this drug was obtained from Kani tribe of Kerala. They traditionally use this plant as an anti-fatigue agent.

(c) to (e): TBGRI applied for an Indian process patent for Jeevani in 1996 which was subsequently granted and sealed. U.S. food supplement manufacturer "Great Earth Co. Inc" uses Jeevani as a raw material along with other nutrient supplement packed in capsules and sold as nutraceutical "Jeevani Jolt 2000". Trademark rights granted to Jeevani Jolt 2000 does not in any way effect the Indian Patent secured for Jeevani and it does not prevent us from global marketing of the Indian product under name Jeevani.

According to TBGRI, the information about Jeevani was brought into the public domain after obtaining the process patent right on the drug, therefore, the need for an international patent was not felt. At the time of filling the Indian Patent in 1996 TBGRI did not go for filing for international patent because of the prohibitive cost, which was not commensurate with the returns as projected at that time.