

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1916
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2006
PATENTING OF TRADITIONAL INDIAN MEDICINE BY USA
Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh

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

- (a) whether the USA has got patented the traditional medicine "Arogya Pacha" being used by the Keralites for relaxation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Union Government has taken any action to get the patenting of the said medicine cancelled;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): "Arogya Pacha" is the name of a Plant whose botanical name is *Trichopus zeylanicus* ssp. *Travancoricus*. As such this plant cannot be patented by anybody. A drug named 'Jeevani' has been developed using "Arogya Pacha" with three more ingredients by Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (TBGRI), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

2. 'Jeevani' is patented by TBGRI in India and the license for manufacture of the drug is given to Coimbatore Arya Vaidya Pharmacy. They have the exclusive right for manufacture and sale of the drug in India and abroad. Accordingly they are manufacturing and selling the drug.

3. Trademarks have been taken on Jeevani at the USPTO bearing serial No. 75692281 by NutriScience Innovations LLC Ltd. Connecticut and Serial No. 75955444 'Jeevani Jolt' by Great Earth enterprises Inc, New York. While the earlier trademark was filed on 27th April, 1999 and was abandoned on 13th July, 2001 the latter was filed on 8th March, 2000 and is still alive.

4. Government has created a Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) for providing access to International Patent offices with an objective of preventing the grant of wrong patents. TKDL will act as a defensive tool against misappropriation.