

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3909

ANSWERED ON:17.05.2006

MEDICINAL HERBS

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Sen Smt. Minati

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study on the availability of Medicinal Herbals in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and Location-wise; and
- (c) the details of the measures taken by the Government to conserve them?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda & Siddha, an autonomous organization under the Ministry, has conducted survey of Medicinal Plants in about 400 forest divisions located in different parts of the country. The Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine another autonomous organization under the Ministry has also been conducting ethnobotanical surveys in different forest areas of the country to ascertain the availability of medicinal plants in general and Unani Medicinal plants in particular. So far, the Council has undertaken studies in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Jammu & Kashmir.

(c) Ministry of Environment & Forest during the period 1993-2004 has supported the creation of 55 Forest gene banks of 250-500 hectare size each in peninsular India. These forest gene banks are called Medicinal Plants Conservation Areas (MPCA's) and have the objective of conserving the wild gene pools of medicinal plants of the region. There are 14 such gene banks in Karnataka, 13 in Tamil Nadu, 7 in Kerala, 11 in Maharashtra and 10 in Andhra Pradesh.

The National Medicinal Plants Board under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is also supporting programmes for in-situ and ex-situ conservation of medicinal plants.