

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4013
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2006
SUPPLY OF MEDICINAL AND HERBAL PLANTS
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the difficulties faced by India in supplying medicinal and herbal plants for the global herbal medicine and cosmetics industry; and

(b) the agencies involved in encouraging farmers to use latest technological developments for better and quicker yields of such plants and selling the produce in the global market?

Answer

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

(a) The main difficulties faced are stringent quality and safety standards, absence of market authorization for herbal products and the non-recognition of Indian medicinal plants by regulatory authorities of foreign countries.

(b) Agencies like National Horticulture Board, National Horticulture Mission, Research Institutes / Laboratories of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE) and Universities are involved in providing financial and technical support for improving the yield of medicinal plants. The National Medicinal Plants Board has also been set up to coordinate matters related to the development of medicinal plants sector. Agencies like APEDA, PHARMEXCIL and CHEMEXCIL are involved in export promotion of herbal products in global markets.