

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1107
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2006
CULTIVATION OF MAPIA PLANT
Shivanna Shri M

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

- (a) whether "MAPIA" which contains highest percentage of camptothecin is the best medicine in the world for cancer;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government has any proposal to promote the cultivation of this plant "MAPIA" which is grown in Karnataka and Maharashtra; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) Mappia stems and leaves contain 0.15% Camptothecin and is proven to be specific for Cancer as it inhibits the enzyme DNA Topoisomerase-I and kills Cancer Cells, as reported by RTI International. Ayush Research Councils and the Indian Council of Medical Research could examine the therapeutic and commercial prospects of this plant.
- (b) & (c) So far there is no such proposal since information is not available regarding the market demand of this plant. However, a proposal is under consideration of State Medicinal Plant Board, Government of Karnataka for setting up tissue culture facility and propagating Mappia in a commercial manner.