

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2701
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2006
DIMINISHING MEDICINAL PLANTS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the medicinal plants are facing extinction due to declining forest areas;
- (b) if so, the measures being taken to protect the forest areas; and
- (c) the steps being taken to promote medicinal plants in forest areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) No reports have been received regarding the medicinal plant species facing extinction due to declining of forest areas. Moreover, the last three State of Forest Reports published by Forest Survey of India (FSI) reveal an increasing trend in forest areas in the country.

(in sq. km)
SFR (1999) SFR (2001) SFR (2003)
765,253 768,436 774,740

Moreover the various measures being taken to protect the forest areas are as under:

- (i) Strict enforcement of Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, National Biodiversity Act, 2002 and the rules and guidelines made thereunder.
 - (ii) Management measures like working of forests according to approved Working Plans, Forest Development Agencies and Joint Forest Management activities.
 - (iii) Financial measures like providing assistance to the States/Union Territories under Centrally Sponsored Schemes and externally aided projects.
- (c) Ministry has taken the following steps to promote medicinal plants in forest areas:-
- (i) To identify endangered medicinal plants in the Schedules of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to accord them legal protection.
 - (ii) To support a number of projects on conservation of some specific medicinal plants as well as Medicinal Plants Conservation Trees (MPCAs) that are primarily in forest areas.
 - (iii) To encourage cultivation of medicinal plants in degraded forest lands under National Afforestation Eco-Development Board (NAEB).
 - (iv) Implementation of promotional, commercial and contractual farming schemes for conservation and cultivation of medicinal plants through National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB).