

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3023

ANSWERED ON:13.12.2006

MEDICINAL PLANTS

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

- (a) Whether plants of medicinal value are in danger due to de-forestation in the country;
- (b) If so, whether the Government proposes to take any steps in this regard in order to save and increase the number of such plants;
- (c) If so, the details thereof; and
- (d) If not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

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

(a) There are reports of non-availability of raw material obtained from certain medicinal plants in adequate quantity. However, no reports have been received regarding danger to medicinal plant species due to deforestation of forest areas. Moreover, as per reports published by Forest Survey of India (FSI) there is increasing trend in forest areas in the country.

(b)&(c) Government 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 encourage cultivation of medicinal plants in degraded forest lands under National Afforestation Eco-Development Board (NAEB).
- (iii) Medicinal Plants Board has also been set up to coordinate activities relating to promotion of medicinal plants sector. The Board has implemented various schemes for this purpose including the in-situ and ex-situ conservation.

(d) Does not arise