

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3743

ANSWERED ON:16.05.2006

SETTING UP OF MEDICINAL PROCESSING ZONES

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Ravindran Shri Pannian;Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up National Medicinal Plant processing zones in the country;
- (b) if so, the purpose and the number of such zones proposed to be set up, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to improve export share in the global herbal medicine market?

**Answer**

Â THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ( SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a & b) No proposal to set up a National Medicinal Plant processing zone is under consideration of the Government. However, according to information made available by the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), under the Department of AYUSH, the NMPB has sanctioned 725 promotional and more than 3500 contractual farming projects in different states to provide assistance for the development and cultivation of medicinal plants.

(c) Yes, Sir. Government is taking steps to promote the exports of all goods, including Herbal Medicines. The schemes formulated for the promotion of exports, inter alia include the Advance Licence Scheme (ALS), Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme (DEPB), Market Development Assistance Scheme (MDA), Market Access Initiative Scheme (MAI) etc.