

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2023  
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2005  
PATENT FOR MEDICINAL PLANTS  
Tripathi Shri Chandramani

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

- (a) whether the Government has chalked out any action plan for the conservation of Medical Unani Plants related to the indigenous system of medicine;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether large scale Indian Medicinal Plants are being patented by the Multi-National Companies;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the number of medicinal plants that got patented by the Government during the last three years; and
- (e) the number of Indian Unani Medicinal Plants that got patented by the foreign companies?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) The Government has set up a Medicinal Plants Board with a view to co-ordinate all matters relating to medicinal plants, including drawing up policies and strategies for conservation, proper harvesting, cost-effective cultivation, research and development, processing, etc in order to protect, sustain and develop this sector. The schemes implemented by the Board provides for financial support for promotional activities and for captive cultivation of medicinal plants used in preparation of drugs under traditional systems of medicine including the Unani system.

(c) to (e) Although, plants and the knowledge about their medicinal usage in the public domain can not be patented, it is noticed that some individuals and companies in some of the foreign countries have been given patents for the medicinal use of a number of Indian medicinal plants. As there is no effective mechanism to know about the applications made for patents in the patent offices of other countries, it is not possible to indicate the number of patents granted for medicinal use of plants including those used in Unani in foreign countries.