

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMEOPATHY (AYUSH)
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2166

ANSWERED ON:05.12.2014

MEDICINAL AROMATIC PLANTS AND HERBS

Chandumajra Shri Prem Singh; Pal Shri Jagdambika; Premachandran Shri N.K.

Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMEOPATHY (AYUSH) be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has undertaken any study/survey to identify and map the indigenous medicinal/aromatic plants and herbs across the country, if so, the details and the outcome thereof, State/ UT-wise;

(b) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for documentation of these plants and herbs in the country so as to protect them from being patented in other countries;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the conservation, cultivation and commercial exploitation of indigenous medicinal/aromatic plants along with the funds earmarked, allocated and utilised for the purpose during each of the last three years and the current year, State/ UT-wise;

(d) the details of the proposals received from the States/UTs for the aforesaid purpose along with the action taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government thereon, State/UT-wise; and

(e) whether the Government has any proposal to set up research institutes to conduct research/study on the medicinal and aromatic use of indigenous herbs and plants, and if so, the details thereof, State/ UT-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

(a) & (b): Yes. As per information received from Botanical Survey of India (BSI), the BSI has been carrying out survey and documentation of all plant resources of the country including medicinal/ aromatic plants and herbs. The BSI is the nodal repository for Reference Plant Collections and at present houses about 3.2 million specimens in its different herbaria. It is estimated that more than 8,000 species of medicinal herbs and medicinal plants are found in the country.

Ministry of AYUSH in collaboration with CSIR has established a Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) to prevent misappropriation of the country's traditional medicinal knowledge.

(c): Government has set up Medicinal Plants Board to coordinate activities for overall development of medicinal plants sector including their cultivation, conservation and sustainable utilization.

The Board has been implementing following Schemes during 11th Plan which were continued during the 12th plan for undertaking programmes in this directions:-

(i) Central Sector Scheme for 'Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants'

(ii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'National Mission on Medicinal Plants'

Information regarding State / UT wise funds allocated/ released by NMPB and utilized on account of financial assistance for the project proposals of States / UTs under both the above Schemes is provided at Annexure-I & II.

CSIR-Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Lucknow and CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIM), Jammu have established gene bank of medicinal and aromatic plants for their conservation and propagation.

In addition, Directorate of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Research (DMAPR) located at Anand, Gujarat as well as the AICRP on Medicinal & Aromatic Plants and Betelvine (AICRPMAP & B) of ICAR are working for the identification, conservation, cultivation and commercial exploitation of medicinal/ aromatic plants and herbs in the country.

(d): Under Central Sector Scheme for 'Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants', of National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) of Ministry of AYUSH, project proposals were received during the current year from States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura and West

Bengal for undertaking activities relating to conservation / Resource Augmentation and livelihood generation for medicinal plants. Out of it, total 27 project proposals of all said States except the State of Punjab have been approved for providing admissible central assistance.

Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "National Mission on Medicinal Plants" of National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) of Ministry of AYUSH, Annual Action Plan Proposals were received during the current year from 21 States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Meghalaya, Manipur, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Sikkim Uttar Pradesh and Tripura for undertaking activities relating to cultivation of identified medicinal plants and other activities as per Scheme. Proposals of all States except Chhattisgarh have been approved for providing admissible central assistance.

(e): Government has already set up research institutes/ bodies like CSIR, DBT, DST, ICAR, ICMR, etc. to conduct research / studies on medicinal and aromatic use of indigenous herbs and plants. Research Councils working under Ministry of AYUSH viz. Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Central Council for Research in Unani Medicines (CCRUM) and Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) have also been conducting research on medicinal plants.