

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4255
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2000
DEVELOPMENT OF HERBAL DRUG SECTOR
JITENDRA PRASADA

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up a High Level Medicinal Plants Board to provide for a systematic and comprehensive development of the herbal drug;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government also propose to enlist all the Indian herbal/medicinal plants and get them patented in India to prevent their getting patented in foreign countries; and
- (d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA)

- (a) & (b) A proposal is being processed to set up a ` Medicinal Plants Board` as an agency which would be responsible to coordinate all matters relating to the development of the Medicinal Plants Sector.
- (c) & (d) This Ministry has a proposal to establish a Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) which would help in bringing the traditional knowledge already in public domain in an acceptable form with a view to prevent patenting of our plants and medicinal remedies.