

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1203
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2001
GROWTH AND EXPLOITATION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS
ANANTA NAYAK

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have made any systematic assessment of the medicinal plant resources in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the medicinal plants, location-wise;
- (c) the details of the different types of trees identified as fast vanishing due to extensive deforestation process in the country;
- (d) the number and category of medicinal/commercial value trees planted particularly in Orissa and Tamil Nadu during the last three years and till-date, State-wise;
- (e) whether there is a need to give due protection for proper growth and exploitation of each kind of medicinal plants in various States; and
- (f) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a)&(b) In a recent study sponsored by Ministry of Environment and Forests, the Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions, Bangalore listed seven thousand two hundred fifty two plant species which are used in the country for their medicinal properties. The Botanical Survey of India has also undertaken assessment of the plant resources of the country and it has prepared a Red Data Book listing the threatened and endangered species of plants including medicinal plants. The Red Data Book prepared by the Botanical Survey of India lists twenty nine medicinal plants which are threatened/endangered.

(c) Forest Survey of India is assessing forest cover of the country biannually since 1987. As per the latest assessment for 1996-98 forest cover of the country has marginally increased from 19.27 to 19.39%.

(d),(e)&(f) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Non-Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants is being implemented throughout the country. It is an on-going scheme which provides 100% financial assistance to the State Governments for conservation, development and increasing production of non-timber forest produce including medicinal plants. The scheme is confined mainly to degraded forest areas. Under this scheme, plantation of Medicinal Plants is also a component.

In Orissa and Tamil Nadu, the scheme is being implemented wherein Mixed Plantation of Trees having minor forest produce and medicinal values are taken up. Details of the last three years upto the present are as follows:-

Name of State Year Amount released (Rs. In lakhs) Achievement (area in ha)

Orissa	1998-1999	102.88	1750
	1999-2000	77.06	1850
	2000-2001	132.20	1125
	2001-2002	41.37 (as on date)	1200 (target)
Tamil Nadu	1998-1999	33.00	45
	1999-2000	0.00	250
	2000-2001	34.75	250
	2001-2002	19.00 (as on date)	250 (target)

During 2000-2001, Medicinal Plants have been declared as one of the Thrust Areas by the Ministry in which projects solely for plantation of Medicinal Plants have been invited and sanctioned under this scheme. Till date 18 such projects with an outlay of Rs.8.55

crores have been sanctioned for treating an area of 5,285 ha during the remaining two years of the Ninth Five Year Plan.

The Department of Indian System of Medicine and Homeopathy is implementing a Scheme `Central Scheme for Development and Cultivation of Medicinal Plants` for setting up of Medicinal Plants Gardens for cultivation of identified medicinal plants used in Indian System of Medicine & Homeopathy. These gardens are to serve as Centres for demonstration, education and creation of awareness etc. about the importance of medicinal plants.