

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:27
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2002
NATIONAL POLICY ON ISM & H
A. VENKATESH NAIK;B.K. PARTHASARATHI

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

- (a) whether the Union Government have formulated a separate National Policy on Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy to emphasise indigenous medicine;
- (b) if so, the assistance and incentive given by the Central Government to promote Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy;
- (c) whether the Union Government had set up any Medicinal Plants Board;
- (d) if so, the purpose and the objective thereof; and
- (e) the extent to which it has achieved its goal?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 27 FOR 20.11.2002

(a)to(e): The Government has approved a separate National Policy on Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy.

The Government had formulated various schemes during 9th Plan under which financial assistance has been given to Government/Nongovernment organizations / Institutions for promotion of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy (ISM&H). Several new schemes have been envisaged for implementation during 10th Plan.

The new policy envisages that the ISM industry would be given priority industry status and declared a green industry. The Policy, inter-alia, emphasizes fiscal incentives and tax concession to ISM industry within overall taxation policy to make them viable and competitive. Further strengthening of education, re-orienting research, awareness building and integration have been projected in the new policy.

The Government had already set up Medicinal Plants Board under the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy;

The main purpose and the objective of the Board is the co-ordination with Ministries / Departments / Organizations / State / UT Governments for development of medicinal plants in general and specifically in the following fields ;

- (i) Assessment of demand/supply position in relation to medicinal plants both within the country and abroad;
- (ii) Advise concerned Ministries/Departments/Organizations/State/UT Government on policy matter relating to schemes and programmes for development of medicinal plants;
- (iii) Provide guidance in the formulation of proposals, schemes and programmes etc., to be taken up by agencies having access to land for cultivation and infrastructure for collection, storage and transportation of medicinal plants;
- (iv) Identification, inventorisation and quantification of medicinal plants;
- (v) Promotion of ex-situ / in-situ cultivation and conservation of medicinal plants;

(vi) Promotion of co-operative efforts among collectors and growers and assisting them to store transport and market their produce effectively;

(vii) Setting up of database system for inventorisation, dissemination of information and facilitation, the prevention of Patents being obtained for medicinal use of plants which is in the public domain;

(viii) Matters relating to import / export of raw material, as well as value added products either as medicine, food supplements or as herbal cosmetics including adoption of better techniques for marketing of product to increase their reputation for quality and reliability in the country and abroad;

(ix) Undertaking and awarding Scientific, Technological research and cost-effectiveness studies;

(x) Development of protocols for cultivation and quality control; and

(xi) Encouraging the Protection of Patent Right and Intellectual Property Right.

Medicinal Plants Board was set up in November, 2000. Keeping the above objectives in view, the Board has assisted 144 projects to several Government institutions and NGOs for research and development and sensitization of the Board's activities. The Board proposes to extend assistance for contract farming of 32 identified plants for development and cultivation. 25 State level Medicinal Plants Boards have been set up with objectives similar to those of Medicinal Plants Board.