

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1987  
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2002  
REPORT OF TASK FORCE  
GUNIPATI RAMAIAH

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the main recommendations of the report of task force on conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants submitted by Planning Commission in March, 2000;
- (b) whether the Government have implemented the recommendations;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): The summary details of the main recommendations of the Task Force on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Medicinal Plants is given in the statement at Annexure-I.

(b) & (c): The recommendations are to be implemented over a period of time by various Organisations. A National Medicinal Plants Board has been constituted under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with the participation of the stake holders to oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force.

(d): Does not arise.

Annexure-I

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF TASK FORCE ON MEDICINAL PLANTS

- i) For formalising and organising the marketing and trade of medicinal plants `A National Medicinal Plants Board` should be established. The Board should include representatives from the various stakeholders.
- ii) It will be necessary to establish 200 Medicinal Plants Conservation Areas (MPCA) covering all ecosystems, forest types and sub-types in the country.
- iii) About 100 medicinal plants classified as endangered or rare or threatened should be grown in well-established gardens of the country. Such Gardens are mainly managed by Agriculture, Horticulture, Forest Departments & Botanical Survey of India.
- iv) Three gene banks created through Central Institute for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in Lucknow, National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources in New Delhi and Tropical Botanical Garden and Research Institute in Trivandrum should properly store germplasm of all medicinal plants.
- v) Attempt should be made to establish 200 `Vanaspati Van` in forest areas (each having an area of about 5000 hectares) for commercial supply of crude drugs to pharmacies and for exports.
- vi) Forest Departments should identify and stockmap areas rich in medicinal plants. A `Management Plan` should be formulated for such areas (MPDA).
- vii) Forest Departments should effectively regulate extraction and transport of medicinal plants from wild
- viii) About 50 NGOs (including agricultural universities) technically qualified may be identified for improving awareness and availability of seeds and planting material of medicinal plants to people interested in their cultivation.
- ix) Twenty five species, which are in great demand, may be encouraged for cultivation. Contract and organic farming should be encouraged.
- x) Herbal gardens may be established in each `Development Bank` under Rural Development schemes.

xi) All efforts to be coordinated to ensure export of herbal products to earn Rs. 3000 crores by 2005 and Rs. 10000 crores by 2010 A.D besides meeting domestic needs.