

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:76
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2000
AYURVEDA SYSTEM
RATTAN LAL KATARIA

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

- (a) the number of persons rely on plant-based medicines for health care in the country;
- (b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for promotion of Ayurveda System in the country;
- (c) whether the Government have any plan for commercialization of Herbal crops; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): No authentic information is available. However, according to some reports a large proportion of the population prefers plant-based medicines especially for treating common ailments.

(b): These include:-

- Upgrading colleges to improve educational standards.
- Measures to enhance the availability of quality raw material for formulation of drugs.
- Evolution of pharmacopoeial standards to improve standardization of drugs.
- Support provided for research in Ayurvedic drugs.
- Awareness building about the beneficial effects of the Ayurvedic medicine.

(c) & (d): It has been estimated that sizeable income generating activities can be promoted through the cultivation and marketing of medicinal plants and herbal products derived therefrom. A Task Force on Conservation & Sustainable use of Medicinal Plants has suggested strategies for giving an impetus to this area and designated different Departments of the Government to take follow up action.