

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1904  
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2000  
HERBS GROWING  
ASHOK KUMAR PATEL

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

- (a) whether foreign countries have an eye on the herbs growing in our country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Central Ayurveda and Siddha Research Council in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SH SHANMUGAM)

(a)&(b) Foreign countries are showing interest in plants and herbs having a medical use. Details cannot be assessed as work is in progress in different countries at various stages.

(c) The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda & Siddha have already initiated steps to prepare comprehensive data base on medicinal plants. Complete data base of 40 drugs is in the process of publication. Steps have also been initiated to prepare Traditional Knowledge Digital Library of our knowledge and plants to tabulate what is already in the public domain. This will prevent patenting by other countries.