

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:696
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007
MEDICINAL PLANTS
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) whether more than 8,000 plant varieties are found in the country as per the report of the Aromatic and Medical Plant Growers Association;
- (b) if so, whether any study has been conducted by the Government regarding conservation and utilization of large number of plants available in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any subsidy is being provided by the Government for the production and marketing of said plants;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether any steps have been taken or being taken by the Government keeping in view the possibilities of export of medicinal plants; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS)

(a) to (c) It is estimated that out of about 17,500 species of Angiosperms recorded in the flora of the country, about 8000 species have medicinal properties. These species are listed in different floras published by Botanical Survey of India. The Botanical Survey of India has also prepared an inventory of 3270 rare and threatened plants of India, which also includes a number of medicinal plants. Medicinal Plants are also collected and brought under cultivation /ex- situ conservation in various Botanical Gardens. The National Medicinal Plants Board is implementing schemes for in-situ/ex-situ conservation, survey and inventorisation of medicinal plants.

(d) & (e) National Medicinal Plants Board has implemented the Contractual Farming Scheme under which financial assistance @ 30% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 9.00 lacs, is provided to farmers / growers for cultivation of identified medicinal plants. Besides, National Horticulture Mission, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation also supports cultivation of medicinal plants under its schemes. National Horticulture Board is implementing a Scheme "Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management" under which back ended capital investment subsidy not exceeding 20% of the total project cost with a maximum limit of Rs. 25.00 lakh per project is admissible. For the North-Eastern / Tribal / Hilly Areas, the maximum limit of the subsidy is Rs. 30.0 lakh per project. The financial assistance for hi-tech cultivation of herbal crops is also covered under the scheme.

(f) & (g) Some of the steps taken are as under:

(i) The Government of India has set up the National Medicinal Plants Board to augment availability of medicinal plants for preparation of quality medicines.

(ii) The Government of India organizes Arogya exhibitions and international buyer-seller meets

(iii) The Government of India provides support to industry to participate in International Trade Fairs to exhibit their products. Schemes are also in place for funding market surveys

(iv) Publication of monographs on Indian Medicinal plants, Intra mural and extra Mural research on Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy by AYUSH Research Councils

(vi) Publication of Ayurvedic/ Siddha / Homoeopathy Pharmacopoeias / Formularies