

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1306
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2009
MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANTS
Satpathy Shri Tathagata

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched any scheme to assist poor farmers for growing medicinal and aromatic plants in Orissa;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of farmers benefited from the said scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (c): National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), in the Department of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) has been implementing a Contractual Farming Scheme since the year 2002-03, under which, financial assistance @ 30% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs.9.00 lakhs was provided to the farmers/growers for cultivation of identified medicinal plants. A total of 212 projects have been approved under the scheme in the State of Orissa since 2002-03 to 2007-08.

NMPB has launched a new "Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Mission on Medicinal Plants" from 2008-09 under which cultivation of medicinal plants is taken up in the identified clusters through growers, Self Help Group, Producer Companies and Growers Cooperatives. The scheme is being implemented through the State Horticulture Departments and State Medicinal Plants Boards in the various States. During 2009-10, an amount of Rs.766.33 lakh has been sanctioned to Orissa.

Financial assistance is also provided for cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) being implemented by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. During the period from 2005-06 to 2008-09, an area of 560 ha has been covered under medicinal and aromatic plants under NHM by incurring an expenditure of Rs.63.02 lakh, benefiting 860 farmers. Further, in view of the launching of a new Mission for Medicinal Plants by the NMPB, the component of medicinal plants has been discontinued under NHM from the 2009-10.