

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5840
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2010
QUALITY OF HERBAL MEDICINES
Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami

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

- (a) the mechanism set up by the Government to examine and ensure the quality and standards of herbal medicines in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has prepared/proposed a national policy to bring herbal and over-the-counter medicines under one umbrella so as to maintain the efficiency and standards of these drugs; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN)

(a): Department of AYUSH has taken a number of measures to ensure the quality of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani (ASU) Medicines which include the herbal medicines. These are;

1. Publication of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani Pharmacopoeias of India which includes quality standards of more than 520 single herbal drugs and 101 classical Ayurvedic formulations.
2. It has been made mandatory for the manufacturers to follow the quality standards referred in Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani Pharmacopoeias.
3. The Department has launched a scheme for voluntary certification of ASU drugs in partnership with the Quality Council of India (QCI).
4. It has been mandatory to indicate the date of expiry of the ASU drugs in their labels.
5. The Department has taken a decision to set up a Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine (PCIM).
6. Department of AYUSH has recognized more than 30 laboratories in the public and private sector for testing the Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani herbal drugs.
7. In the last one year five regional conferences were organized to sensitize the manufacturers and associations of stakeholders to follow the quality standards of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicines.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.