

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3351
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2010
USE OF STEVIA
Tandon Shri Lal Ji

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study in regard to use of Stevia as an alternative to sugar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is formulating any scheme to promote cultivation of Stevia; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The constituent laboratories of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) namely, Central Institute of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Lucknow and Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT), Palampur are working on Stevia. CIMAP is working on development of a variety having high steveoside, rebaudioside with low dulcoside-A content, while IHBT is involved in developing cultivation practices and improvement of Stevia to increase glycoside.

(c) & (d): The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) is implementing a "Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Mission on Medicinal Plants" from the year 2008-09. Under the scheme, cultivation of commercially important species of medicinal plants is being encouraged by providing subsidy. Besides, financial assistance is provided for nurseries, post-harvest management, processing etc. Stevia is included in the list of 93 plants species prioritized for cultivation and 20% of the cultivation cost is given as subsidy to the farmers under this scheme.