

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:746

ANSWERED ON:12.11.2010

CONSERVATION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS

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

- (a) whether a large number of Medicinal plants in the country are in the red list categories and criteria of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for the conservation, development and sustainable management of medicinal plants in the country alongwith the achievements made as a result thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has provided financial assistance to the Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations for the protection of medicinal plants; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof during the last year and the current year so far?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): IUCN categorises a plant as Extinct, Extinct in the wild, Critically endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable, Near threatened, Least concern, Data deficient and Not evaluated on the basis of criteria e.g. reduction in population size, geographical range (extent of occurrence and area of occupancy), population size of estimated mature individuals and quantitative analysis showing the probability of extinction in the wild. IUCN does red-listing of plant in global context. According to information furnished by Botanical Survey of India (BSI) the red listed medicinal plants of India are: *Aconitum balfouri*, *A. chasmanthum*, *A. deinorrhizum*, *A. falconeri* var *latilobum*, *A. ferox*, *A. heterophyllum*, *Acorus gramineus*, *Allium stracheyi*, *Angelica glauca*, *Anogeissus sericea* var. *numularia*, *Aquillaria mallaccensis*, *Aristolochia bracteolata*, *A. indica*, *Arnebia benthamii*, *Atropa acuminata*, *Berberis affinis*, *B. apiculata*, *B. aristata*, *Bergenia stracheyi*, *Capparis pachyphylla*, *Carum villosum*, *Colchicum luteum*, *Coptis teeta*, *Coscinium fenestratum*, *Dactylorhiza hatagirea*, *Dioscorea deltoidea*, *Elaeocarpus prunifolius*, *Ephedra gerardiana*, *Gentiana kurooa*, *Gloriosa superba*, *Hedychium spicatum*, *Hyoscyamus niger*, *Hydnocarpus macrocarpa*, *Iphigenia indica*, *I. pallida*, *I. stellata*, *Kolanchoe roseus*, *Madhuca insignis*, *Nardostachys grandiflora*, *Panax pseudoginseng*, *Picrorhiza kurrooa*, *Podophyllum hexandrum*, *Pterocarpus santalinus*, *Rauwolfia serpentina*, *Rheum emodi*, *Saussurea bracteata*, *S. costus*, *S. gnaphalodes*, *Swertia chirayita*, *Taxus wallichiana*, *Taxocarpus kurzii*, *Urginea indica* and *U. maritime*.

(c): Government has set up National Medicinal Plants to coordinate matters related to overall development of medicinal plants sector vide resolution dated 24-11-2000. The Board has been implementing a Central Sector Scheme for Conservation, Development and Cultivation of Medicinal Plants since the year 2000-01. This scheme was revised and renamed as "Central Sector Scheme for Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants" in the year 2008-09 and the revised scheme is being implemented. Under this scheme, assistance has been given to establish 164 herbal gardens and 1303 school herbal gardens in different parts of the country. Further, 34 Medicinal Plants Conservation Areas covering 4355 hectares are being established in different states under the scheme.

In addition to above, a new "Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Mission on Medicinal Plants" with a total outlay of Rs. 630 crores for 11th Plan is being implemented since 2008-09 by the National Medicinal Plants Board. 25 states viz. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhatisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal have been assisted for establishing medicinal plants nurseries, cultivation etc.

Ministry of Environment & Forest has also informed that through the UNDP CCF I & II Projects on Conservation of Medicinal Plants and Sustainable Harvesting, the Ministry through Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT), Bangalore has established 84 Medicinal Plants Conservation areas in 12 states of the country.

The Department of Bio Technology (DBT) had set up three national gene banks on medicinal and aromatic plants at the Central Institute of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Lucknow, National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi and Tropical Botanic Garden & Research Institute (TBGRI), Thiruvananthapuram for the collection, conservation and characterization of the precious wealth of medicinal & aromatic herbs which are rare/ threatened/endangered or are being used in traditional systems, or those which are commercially exploited. The fourth gene bank was also established at the Regional Research Laboratory (RRL),

Jammu to cover the North-Western Himalayan region. A germplasm repository for medicinal plants used in Ayurveda was also supported at Arya Vaidya Sala, Kottakkal. More than 5,000 accessions of important medicinal & aromatic plant species are being maintained as live material in field gene banks, in the form of seed, in vitro material and DNA. For long-term conservation the accessions are stored under cryogenic conditions. After the DBT support is over, these gene-banks are now being maintained by the concerned institutions.

(d) & (e): Financial assistance has been provided by National Medicinal Plants Board to various government /non-government organizations under "Central Sector Scheme for Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants" for undertaking activities related to propagation, preservation, protection and conservation of medicinal plants. Financial assistances amounting to total Rs. 36.56 crores during the year 2009-10 and Rs. 41.04 crore during the current year (till 10.11.2010) has been released for undertaking various projects under the scheme.

Under the UNDP CCF-II Project, the Ministry of Environment & Forests has provided Rs. 1,29,87,300/- during the last year to the Government and non-Governmental Organizations for various components of the project, including conservation of medicinal plants. Rs. 155 lakhs has been released by the UNDP to the three Project implementing States and FRLHT under GOI-UNDP- GEF project on Conservation of Medicinal Plants.