

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:153
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2010
LIFE SAVING HERBS AND PLANTS.
Antony Shri Anto;Bauri Smt. Susmita

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

- (a) the details of the medicinal and aromatic plants under cultivation in different States;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any study on the life saving herbs, roots and plants in the country which are on the verge of extinction;
- (c) if so, the details alongwith the findings thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to give incentives to the farmers for growing such herbs and plants; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 153 FOR 19TH NOVEMBER, 2010

(a) Large numbers of medicinal and aromatic plants and their products are collected from forest areas. In addition, some of the species are also cultivated. The list of important species of medicinal and aromatic plants under cultivation in different States has been given in annexure.

(b) & (c) : Yes Madam, many studies on medicinal plants have been undertaken for development of agro-techniques, demand and supply study, research etc. Some of the important studies and their findings are as follows:-

1. Department of AYUSH had allocated projects to 33 specialised institutions to develop agro-techniques of selected medicinal plants. Agro-techniques have been finalized in respect of 82 plants and consequently first volume of "Agro- techniques of Selected Medicinal Plants" covering 50 medicinal plants has already been published by the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) under the Department of AYUSH, Government of India.

2. In addition the Department of AYUSH and World Health Organisation had jointly commissioned a study in 2000 on "Demand Study for Selected Medicinal Plants" through Centre for Research, Planning and Action (CERPA), New Delhi. The study covered 162 selected plants, as a result of which demand for these plants could be estimated. Furthermore, NMPB had also conducted a study on Demand and Supply of Medicinal Plants in India through the Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT), Bangalore in 2005-06; it was found that 960 medicinal plants are traded and 178 out of these are traded in high volume in quantities exceeding 100 MT per year.

3. With a view to increasing production, improving quality etc. National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) has sanctioned several research projects on intercropping, quality planting material, seed standards, analysis of active ingredient, DNA fingerprinting, sustainable harvesting etc. on various medicinal plants including rare and threatened species. Besides, NMPB is supporting projects on preparation of comprehensive monographs and development of database of selected important plants through expert agencies. R&D works on medicinal plants of various life saving categories, which also includes species of various threat categories (as defined by the International Union for Conservation of Nature), have been taken up by the Indian Council for Agriculture Research (ICAR) under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE). These studies have been carried out through the Directorate of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Research (DMAPR) since 1993 in addition to its out-reach programme viz All India Coordinated Research Programme on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (AICRP on MAP) since 1973. DMAPR has conducted surveys in the natural habitats of Guggal plant in the states of Gujarat and Rajasthan and collected about 115 accessions, which are conserved in the field gene bank. The DMAPR and its out-reach programme AICRP on MAP, which are functioning in different State Agricultural Universities are maintaining germplasm of threatened species namely, Commiphora wightii, Chlorophytum borivillianum, C. arundinaceum, Swertia chirayita, Picrorrhiza kurroa, Gentiana kurroo, Saraca asoca, Valeriana jatamansi, Curculigo orchiodes, Rauvolfia serpentina, Garcenia cambogea in field gene banks collected from the natural habitats. Salient findings and achievements include characterization of collected accessions, identification of elite genotypes, development of package of practices for the cultivation of medicinal plants, including species of various threat category and micro-propagation through tissue culture.

(d) & (e) NMPB is already implementing a "Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Mission on Medicinal Plants" with a total outlay of Rs. 630 crores during the 11th Plan. The scheme aims at supporting market driven cultivation of medicinal plants, prioritized by Department of AYUSH and implemented in a mission mode for cultivation through growers, farmers, cultivators, Growers Associations, Federations, Self Help Groups, Corporates, Growers Co-operatives etc. with backward and forward linkages.

Prioritized Medicinal Plants have been identified for cultivation based on their conservation status and the demand of AYUSH and herbal industry. Financial assistance @ of 20%, 50% and 75% of cost of cultivation is being provided depending upon the conservation status of medicinal plants. For the implementation of the scheme financial assistance has been provided to 26 States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal by National Medicinal Plants Board amounting to total Rs. 2935.15 lacs, 6925.00 lacs and 4641.83 lacs during 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 (upto 15th, November, 2010) respectively.