

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:748
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2011
CULTIVATION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS
Thomas Shri P. T.

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to encourage the cultivation of medicinal plants in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the funds allocated to the State Governments for the purpose and utilized by them during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether any irregularities have been reported in utilisation of the allocated fund; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Department of AYUSH has been 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 prioritized medicinal plants and is being implemented in a mission mode for cultivation through growers, farmers, cultivators, Growers Associations, Federations, Self Help Groups, Corporates and Growers Co-operatives with backward and forward linkages. The scheme is being implemented since 2008-09. Under the scheme financial support is provided for nursery, cultivation, post harvest management, processing and value addition and management support.

The Board had also previously supported Contractual Farming under Central Sector scheme since 2002-03 under which financial assistance was provided to farmers/ growers for cultivation of identified medicinal plants @ 30% of total expenditure to a maximum of Rs. 9.00 lakhs for cultivation of prioritized medicinal plants.

The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation also launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in the country, during the 10th Plan with effect from 2005-06 for holistic development of horticulture sector duly ensuring forward and backward linkages with the active participation of all the stake-holders. All the States and Union Territories were covered under the Mission except the eight North Eastern States including Sikkim and the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand which had been covered under the Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEHS). The promotion of Medicinal Plants was included as one of the component under NHM since 2007-08. Funds were provided for cultivation of Medicinal Plants @ 75% of the total cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 11,250/- per ha. limited to 4 ha. per beneficiary. In view of implementation of National Mission on Medicinal Plants by NMPB the development of medicinal plants has been excluded from National Horticulture Mission Scheme since 2009-10.

(c) Information regarding the funds allocated to State Governments under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "National Mission on Medicinal Plants" since its implementation and utilized by them has been provided in Annexure-I.

Statement showing state-wise funds released and utilized during the year 2007-08 & 2008-09 under the Scheme of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) has been provided in Annexure-II.

(d) & (e) No irregularity was reported in utilization of funds allocated to the State Governments.