

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1658  
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011  
EXTINCTION OF HERBAL PLANTS  
Patle Kamla Devi

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether most of the herbal medicinal plants in the forests are on the verge of extinct as per the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) According to Botanical Survey of India (BSI), about 53 species of herbal medicinal plants, out of 18794 vascular plants so far recorded from the country, are prone to extinction due to various anthropogenic activities.

(c) To conserve plant diversity, including medicinal plants, in general and to protect the threatened species in particular, habitat improvement is the primary measure. For this purpose, about 76.9 million ha. of country's geographical area has been notified as forests. Plants listed as threatened receive special attention under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Biological Diversity Act, 2002. Cultivation of medicinal plants in degraded forest lands is supported through the schemes of the National Afforestation & Eco-development Board (NAEB).

The National Medicinal Plant Board, Department of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH) also provides financial assistance to State Governments for cultivation of prioritized Medicinal Plants. Financial assistance is also being provided to eligible organizations for activities relating to in-situ / ex-situ conservation, research & development, capacity building and setting up of herbal gardens.