

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:278
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2009
CULTIVATION OF MEDICINAL AROMATIC PLANTS
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has formulated any scheme to support farmers in cultivation of medicinal, aromatic and herbal plants in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the plants selected for cultivation;
- (c) the funds earmarked to provide production of these plants during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;
- (d) whether the Union Government has withdrawn funds sanctioned to certain States for the purpose;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the action plan of the Union Government to promote cultivation of these plants in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 278 FOR 22ND JULY, 2009

(a) Yes.

(b) The Government has recently approved a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Mission on Medicinal Plants with a total outlay of Rs. 630 crores for implementation during the 11th Plan by the National Medicinal Plants Board. The scheme aims at supporting market driven cultivation of medicinal plants prioritized on the basis of their demand in the AYUSH and herbal industry and will be implemented in a mission mode in selected clusters through growers' cooperatives, self help groups, producer companies, etc. with backward and forward linkages for nurseries, post-harvest management, marketing and certification. The activities for which financial assistance is available under the scheme are as follows:

Nurseries in public and private sector for quality planting material

Cultivation of species that are in demand in AYUSH and herbal industry

Support Post Harvest Management infrastructure like warehouses, processing units, setting up/ upgradation of herbal mandies

Market intelligence

Marketing Support

Organic Certification

Quality Testing

Crop Insurance

Management Support

A list of 93 plants has been identified for cultivation based on their conservation status and the demand of AYUSH and herbal industry. Financial assistance @ of 20%, 50% and 75% is admissible depending upon the conservation status so as to promote cultivation of rare and endangered medicinal plants. The list of plants identified for support is annexed.

Support is also provided for growing of medicinal and aromatic plants under the schemes of the National Horticulture Mission and the National Horticulture Board under the Ministry of Agriculture.

(c) Besides scheme of National Mission on Medicinal Plants, Government has also approved "Central Sector Scheme for Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants" involving an outlay of Rs. 321.30 Crores. The total outlay available for both the schemes during the 11th Plan is Rs.951.30 Crores.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) There is two pronged approach to conservation and development of medicinal plants in the country. The activities like conservation of rare, endangered and threatened species of medicines plants in forests and public lands, creation of herbal gardens, capacity building and training are supported under the "Central Sector Scheme of Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants" mainly through the forest departments and civil society organizations. However, cultivation on individual lands alongwith pre and post harvest management including quality certification and marketing is supported under the "Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Mission on Medicinal Plants".

The State Governments are required to submit action plans with the approval of the State Level Steering Committee before these are considered for approval by the Central Government. The above two schemes seek to achieve the following targets during the 11th Plan:

1. Setting up Medicinal Plants Conservation Areas (MPCAs) @200 ha per MPCA (20MPCAs) 4000 ha

2. Ex-situ conservation/ resource generation of rare, endangered & threatened species in high demand 16,000 ha

3. Support to Joint First Management Committees / Van Panchayats for value addition / marketing in forest areas 1500 - JFMCs

4. Cultivation of plants in high demand in trade 80,000-1,00,000 ha

The schemes also aim at increasing the share of value added items in export of medicinal plants and products besides creating 6 crore mandays of employment.