

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:62  
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2011  
CULTIVATION OF MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANTS  
Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar; Tirkey Shri Manohar

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

- (a) whether a number of medicinal and aromatic plants are either extinct or on the verge of extinction in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of the endangered medicinal and aromatic plants in the country;
- (c) whether the Government has approved a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Mission on Medicinal Plants in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the initiatives and activities taken thereunder;
- (e) the assistance provided to the cultivators of these plants under the scheme during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT- wise; and
- (f) the achievements made thus far ?

**Answer**

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 62 FOR 25th NOVEMBER, 2011

(a) & (b) No firm data on the extent of threat to the medicinal plants is readily available. According to the Botanical Survey of India 155 species of vascular plants out of a total of 19064 species are prone to extinction due to various anthropogenic activities. These include 69 species of medicinal and aromatic plants, which are reported as threatened (including endangered), viz. *Aconitum balfouri*, *A. chasmanthum*, *A. deinorrhizum*, *A. falconeri* var. *latilobum*, *A. ferox*, *A. heterophyllum*, *Acorus gramineus*, *Allium strachcyi*, *Amyris balsamifera*, *Angelica glanca*, *Anogeissis sericea* var. *numularia*, *Aquilaria malloccensis*, *Aquilaria khasiana*, *Aristolochia bracteolata*, *A. Mica*, *Arnebia benthamii*, *Atropa acwinata*, *Berberis affinis*, *B. apiculata*, *B. aristata*, *Bergenia stracheyi*, *Boronia megastigma*, *Cappatis pachyphylla*, *Carum villosum*, *Cedrus deodara*, *Colchicum luteum*, *Coptis teeta*, *Coscinium fenestratum*, *Dactylorhiza hatagirea*, *Dioscorea dehoidea*, *Elaeocarpus prunifolius*, *Ephedra gerardiana*, *Ferrula gummosa*, *Gaultheria fragrantissima*, *Gentiana kurooa*, *Ghriosa superba*, *Hedychium coronarium*, *Hedychium spicatum*, *Hyoscyamus niger*, *Hydnocarpus macrocarpa*, *Inula racemosa*, *Iphigenia indica*, *I. pallida*, *I. stellata*, *Jurinea dolomiaea*, *Kolanchoe rosens*, *Madhuca insignia*, *Myristica fragrans*, *Myroxylon balsamum* var. *pereirae*, *Nardostachys grandiflora*, *Origanum vulgare*, *Panax pseudoginseng*, *Picrorhiza kurrooa*, *Podophyllum hexandrum*, *Pogostemon cablin*, *Fterocarpus santalinus*, *Rauwolfia serpenlina*, *Rheum emodi*, *Santalum album*, *Satureja horensis*, *Saussurea bracteata*, *S. costus*, *S. gnaphalodes*, *Swertia chirayita*, *Taxus wallichiana*, *Taxocarpus kurzii*, *Urginea indica*, *Urginea mantima* and *Vitex peduncularis*.

Under section 38 of Biological Diversity Act 2002, the Ministry of Environment & Forests, in consultation with concerned State Government notify any species, which is on the verge of extinction or likely to become extinct in near future as a threatened species and prohibit or regulate collection thereof for any purpose and take appropriate steps to rehabilitate and preserve those species. Under the said provision of the Act, the Ministry of Environment & Forests has notified the plants which are on the verge of extinction in the State of Bihar, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. These plants also include medicinal and aromatic plants.

(c) to (f): Yes, Madam. The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) of Department of AYUSH is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'National Mission on Medicinal Plants' since 2008-09. The scheme aims at supporting market driven cultivation of prioritized medicinal plants and is being implemented in a mission mode for cultivation of identified medicinal plants in cluster mode, through Growers, Farmers, Cultivators, Growers Associations, Federations, Self Help Groups, Corporates and Growers Co-operatives with backward and forward linkages. The selection and pricritization of plant species for financial assistance under the scheme is based on demand in the domestic and international markets, their availability in the wild and their conservation status (critically endangered, threatened, vulnerable etc). Financial assistance is provided to States for getting the scheme implemented for cultivation, nursery, post harvest management of medicinal plants etc. The subsidy is provided to the cultivators through State Mission Directors, The rates of subsidy are 75%, 50% and 20% of the cost of cultivation of medicinal plants, depending upon their threat status, gestation period and need for support etc. The overall weighted average of subsidy is kept within 30% for a particular State while approving their annual Action Plan. Financial assistance amounting to Rs. 29.3516 crores in 2008-09, Rs. 69.2508 crores in

2009-10, Rs. 47.7663 crores in 2010-11 and Rs. 24.3462 crores during the current year was released to State Mission Directors for implementing the Scheme, State/UT-wise and year-wise details of funds released for various activities under the scheme including cultivation are available in Annexure.