

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1953

ANSWERED ON:26.03.2012

CONSERVATION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS

Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram; Das Shri Ram Sundar; Singh Baba Shri K.C.

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any special action plan for the development and preservation of rare medicinal plants in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Maharashtra; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent smuggling of the said plants in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) & (b) The Government has taken a number of steps for the development and preservation of medicinal plants (including rare ones), (which inter-alia include, the following:

(i) Setting up of the National Medicinal Plants Board to coordinate all matters relating to medicinal plants sector. The Board is implementing Central Sector Scheme for 'Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants' with a total outlay of Rs. 321.30 crores during the 11th Plan. The Board has also sanctioned a Network project for rare, endangered and threatened species of medicinal plants in the Western Ghats at a cost of Rs.237.83 lakhs.

(ii) Recognizing and supporting a Centre of Excellence on Medicinal Plants and Traditional Knowledge at Foundation Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT), Bangalore established in October, 2002.

(iii) Operationalizing the Global Environment Facility (GEF) – Government of India (GoI) - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Project entitled 'Mainstreaming Conservation and Sustainable Use of Medicinal Plants Diversity in three Indian States' which is being implemented in Arunachal Pradesh, Chattisgarh and Uttarakhand.

(iv) Establishing a network of 108 Medicinal Plant Conservation Areas (MPCAs) focused on conservation of prioritized wild medicinal plants occurring in different regions of the country across 12 States with technical support from FRLHT. The State-wise list of MPCAs, including 13 MPCAs in Maharashtra, is given in Annexure.

(c) Prevention of smuggling of medicinal plants and their protection are done through enforcement of the Indian Forest Act, 1927; Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the rules under these Acts. Export of 29 species of medicinal plants is regulated under the EXIM policy. A Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has since been established to check illegal trade and smuggling in wildlife including medicinal plants.

Based on the communication received from Department of AYUSH regarding anti-cancer drug from plant 'Narakya' (Nothapodytes nimmoniana) and its protection as a rare medicinal plant, the NBA has requested Member-Secretaries of State Biodiversity Boards of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Goa and Maharashtra to consider notifying the said species as a threatened one under the Section 38 of the Biological Diversity Act. Further, as per Section 3 of the Biological Diversity Act, persons seeking access to bio-resources and/or associated knowledge require prior approval of the National Biodiversity Authority.