

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3484
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2012
SURVEY IN THE FIELD OF FOREST AND HILLY AREAS
Sainuji Shri Kowase Marotrao

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any survey has been conducted/proposed to be conducted by the Government about forest and hilly areas in the country;
- (b) if so, whether any research has been conducted about availability of herbs in these areas;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether any efforts have been made by the Central Pharmaceuticals and Aromatic Institute to fulfil the demand of herbs in International market and earn foreign exchange therefrom; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) to (c): Yes, Madam. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) laboratories namely, CSIR-Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CSIR-CIMAP), Lucknow, CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bio-resource Technology (CSIR-IHBT), Palampur, CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu and CSIR-North-East Institute of Science and Technology (CSIR-NEIST), Jorhat conduct survey and collect bioresources of the hilly regions. They have undertaken Research and Development R&D for genetic improvement of plant bio-resources through conventional breeding and biotechnological methods and agro-technology of economically important plants, including medicinal and aromatic plants. Efforts have also been to develop process technology for phytochemicals. Recently CSIR-CIMAP has taken up a project funded by Uttarakhand Council of Science and Technology on the 'Inventorisation of cultivation and conservation status of medicinal and aromatic plants in Uttarakhand'. Survey units of Research Councils working under Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have conducted surveys of forests and hilly areas of the country to inventorise and document medicinal plants as well as local plants used in health traditions. The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Department of AYUSH has been providing financial assistance in institutions engaged in research to survey and inventorise medicinal plants in the hilly regions of the country. Further, Botanical Survey of India (BSI), an organisation under Ministry of Environment and Forests conduct ethno-botanical studies in the country.

(d): Does not arise.

(e) & (f): Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)'s laboratory - Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP)'s efforts towards development of high yielding mint varieties, cropping and integrated pest and soil nutrient management schedules transferred to cultivators leading to high mint oil yields and enormous employment generation in the area, has largely contributed to India achieving a capability to meet about 75% of world's requirement of about 15000 tons of natural menthol. Such efforts have also been extrapolated for several commodities such as lemongrass oil, senna, etc., which are being produced in the country for meeting domestic requirement as well as for export purposes. Due to continuing efforts made by CSIR-CIMAP in dissemination of technologies through training, interaction, farmers' meet, etc., production of different medicinal and aromatic plants is increasing in the country. Several of such commodities (Mentha oil, lemongrass oil, Palmarosa oil, Senna, Isabgol, etc.) are being exported by the traders/manufactures/ processors who procure these raw materials from the farmers. As per the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, during the year 2008-09, about 3612 tonnes of Mentha oil worth Rs.245.08 crores and 137 tonnes Lemongrass oil worth Rs.8.63 crores were exported.