

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4620
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2012
PROPOSALS FOR CONSERVATION OF MEDICINAL HERBS
Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz

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

- (a) whether the Government has received proposals from various States including Bihar in respect of conservation and trade of medicinal herbs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon; and
- (d) the funds allocated and spent for conservation of medicinal and herbal plants during the said period, State/UT-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN)

(a) to (c): Yes.

1. The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) under Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been implementing following Schemes since 2008-09 for overall development of medicinal plants Sector:-

(i) Central Sector Scheme for 'Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants' The objective of this Scheme is to provide support for Survey, Inventorisation, in-situ / ex-situ conservation, linkage with Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs), Research and Development, establishing quality standards and certification, capacity building, promotional activities etc.

The proposals in form of projects are received and placed before the Project Screening Committee (PSC) and thereafter before the Standing Finance Committee (SFC) for final approval.

(ii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'National Mission on Medicinal Plants' The Scheme is primarily aimed at supporting market driven cultivation of medicinal plants on private land with backward linkages for establishment of nurseries and forward linkages for post-harvest management, process and value addition including market promotion, buy back intervention, marketing infrastructure, certification etc. in a Mission mode. The support for cultivation also helps in conservation as it reduces pressure of unsustainable collection from wild.

The proposals received in form of Annual Action Plan of the State are placed before the Technical Screening Committee (TSC) and thereafter before the Standing Finance Committee (SFC) for final approval.

The details of State/UT-wise proposals received from Govt. Departments / local bodies / institutions / organisations located in various States / UTs including Bihar in respect of conservation, trade and other related activities have been given at Annexure-I.

2. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has informed that the Ministry operates a Central Sector Scheme 'Grants-in-Aid to STDCCs etc. for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) Operations' since 1992-93. Under this scheme Grants-in-Aid is provided to the State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations (STDCCs) / Forest Development Corporations (FDCs) etc. through respective State Governments for increasing the quantum of MFP handled by and strengthening the share capital base of corporations for undertaking MFP operation, apart from, setting up ware-housing facilities, establishing processing industries, giving consumption loans to the people belonging to scheduled tribes and supplementing R&D efforts.

(d): 1. The funds released under the Scheme viz. Central Sector Scheme for 'Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants' and Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'National Mission on Medicinal Plants' by the NMPB have been provided at Annexure-II & III respectively. Under the Central Sector Scheme no State / UT-wise fund is allocated and every project is examined and approved on the basis of merit of the project and schematic provision. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme mostly fund was released in accordance with approved action plan.

2. According to information provided by FRLHT, Bangalore, which is an institution supported by Ministry of Environment & Forests, under the Global Environment Facility – UNDP supported project titled "Mainstreaming Conservation and Sustainable use of medicinal plants diversity in three Indian states", Medicinal Plants Conservation Areas (MPCAs) are being supported in Arunachal

Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh at an outlay of Rs. 4,84,85,835/-.

3. Horticulture Division in Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is also implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "National Horticulture Mission" (NHM), in the Country since 2005-06. The scheme is being implemented in the country in all the States and the three UTs of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and Puducherry. The eight North-Eastern states alongwith J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are covered under the Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan states (HMNEH). Under these schemes, medicinal plants were initially included but have been discontinued after the launch of the National Mission on Medicinal Plants. Financial assistance was provided for medicinal plants under the above scheme during the year 2009-10 to the following States:-

State Amount of financial assistance
(Rs. in lakhs)

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Andhra | 17.58 |
| Pradesh | |
| Chhattisgarh | 10.00 |
| Kerala | 8.42 |
| Rajasthan | 3.33 |

4. CSIR has informed that the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) Lucknow was supported under the 11th five year plan, to undertake R&D on Biodiversity Assessment, Prospection and Conservation of plant resources of India for which Rs. 522.05 lakhs was spent in the last three years.