

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:198
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2012
MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANTS
Premdas Shri ;Singh Shri Rakesh

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

- (a) whether a number of medicinal and aromatic plants including ashtawarga herbs are either extinct or on the verge of extinction in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor indicating the details of the endangered medicinal and aromatic plants in the country;
- (c) whether the Government has launched any programme for the conservation of these medicinal and aromatic plants in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the activities taken thereunder; and
- (e) the financial and technical assistance provided for the conservation of medicinal and aromatic plants during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 198 FOR 24TH AUGUST, 2012

(a)&(b): No firm data on the extent of threat to the medicinal and aromatic plants including ashtawarga is readily available. Under section 38 of the Biological Diversity Act 2002, the Ministry of Environment & Forests, in consultation with the concerned State Government, notifies any species which is on the verge of extinction or likely to become extinct in the near future as a threatened species and prohibits or regulates collection thereof for any purpose and takes 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 so far only 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. However, none of ashtawarga species have been reported extinct or on the verge of extinction in any of the said states.

According to the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), the medicinal and aromatic plants, like other groups of plants and animals, are threatened largely due to degradation of habitat and due to various anthropogenic factors and the threatened medicinal and aromatic plants are as follows:

Aconitum balfourii, *A. chasmanthum*, *A. deinorrhizum*, *A. falconeri* var *latilobum*, *A. ferox*, *A. heterophyllum*, *Acorus gramineus*, *Allium stracheyi*, *Amyris balsamifera*, *Angelica glauca*, *Anogeissus sericea* var. *numularia*, *Aquillaria mallaccensis*, *Aquilaria khasiana*, *Aristolochia bracteolata*, *A. indica*, *Arnebia benthamii*, *Atropa acuminata*, *Berberis affinis*, *B. apiculata*, *B. aristata*, *Bergenia stracheyi*, *Boronia megastigma*, *Capparis pachyphylla*, *Carum villosum*, *Cedrus deodara*, *Colchicum luteum*, *Coptis teeta*, *Coscinium fenestratum*, *Dactylorhiza hatagirea*, *Dioscorea deltoidea*, *Elaeocarpus prunifolius*, *Ephedra gerardiana*, *Ferrula gummosa*, *Gaultheria fragrantissima*, *Gentiana kurooa*, *Gloriosa superba*, *Hedychium coronarium*, *Hedychium spicatum*, *Hyoscyamus niger*, *Hydnocarpus macrocarpa*, *Inula racemosa*, *Iphigenia indica*, *I. pallida*, *I. stellata*, *Jurinea dolomiaea*, *Kolanchoe roseus*, *Madhuca insignis*, *Myristica fragrans*, *Myroxylon balsamum* var. *pereirae*, *Nardostachys grandiflora*, *Origanum vulgare*, *Panax pseudoginseng*, *Picrorhiza kurrooa*, *Podophyllum hexandrum*, *Pogostemon cablin*, *Pterocarpus santalinus*, *Rauvolfia serpentina*, *Rheum emodi*, *Santalum album*, *Satureja horensis*, *Saussurea bracteata*, *S. costus*, *S. gnaphalodes*, *Swertia chirayita*, *Taxus wallichiana*, *Taxocarpus kurzii*, *Urginea indica*, *Urginea maritima* and *Vitex peduncularis*.

(c)to(e):Yes, Madam. The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) of Department of AYUSH is implementing a Central Sector Scheme for `Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants` since the year 2008-09 during the 11th five year plan. 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. Under the scheme financial and technical assistance has been provided for in-situ / ex-situ conservation including resource augmentation in forest areas for conservation of medicinal plants. Herbal Gardens, School Herbal Gardens, Home Herbal Gardens, Medicinal Plants Conservation Areas have been established in different states and plantation of rare, endangered and threatened species have been undertaken in the forest areas under the scheme.

Financial assistance amounting to Rs. 1512.36 lakhs in 2009-10, Rs. 3092.30 lakhs in 2010-11, Rs. 3896.56 lakhs in 2011-12 and Rs. 418.69 lakhs during the current year (till 31.07.2012) was released to different States for the conservation of medicinal plants under the Scheme. State/UT-wise and year-wise details of funds released by the NMPB for conservation of medicinal plants under the scheme are given in Annexure.