

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3259

ANSWERED ON:31.08.2012

AVAILABILITY OF MEDICINAL HERBS/PLANTS

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study/research with regard to the availability of medicinal herbs/plants and the possibility of related trade in various States including Bihar;
- (b) if so, the details along with the findings thereof;
- (c) the total production of medicinal herbs/plants, revenue generated therefrom and the number of cultivators involved therein during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the number of districts covered under the National Mission on Medicinal Plants and criteria adopted for their selection by the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB); and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to include new districts under the said scheme, and if so, the details thereof, State/ UT-wise?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Accordingly to a study on database of medicinal plants species of India being undertaken by Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT), Bangalore and supported by the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) there are 6560 medicinal plants species reportedly available in the country till date. According to another study conducted by the NMPB under Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare through the FRLHT, the annual demand of medicinal plants was estimated to 3,19,500 Metric Tones (MTs) for year 2005-06. In all 960 medicinal plants are traded, out of which 178 species have annual consumption of more than 100 MTs. The study was published in year 2008 and available on the website of the NMPB i.e. www.nmpb.nic.in under title "Demand and Supply Study - NMPB & FRLHT (2008)". State wise production of medicinal plants is not centrally collected in the country.

(c) to (e): As mentioned above, according to the study published in 2008, the production of medicinal plants was 3.195 lakhs MTs. The revenue generated due to all medicinal plants is not centrally collected.

The NMPB has been implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "National Mission on Medicinal Plants" since 2008-09. The scheme is primarily aimed at supporting market driven medicinal plants cultivation on private lands with backward linkages with establishment of nurseries for supply of quality planting material and forward linkages for post-harvest management, processing, marketing infrastructure, certification, crop insurance etc. The cultivation of medicinal plants in cluster is supported by providing subsidy to farmers. State wise and year wise number of cultivators approved for the support under the scheme are given at Annexure.

Under the scheme every year the State level implementing agencies prepare the Annual Action Plan in accordance with the geographical and climatic conditions of the state and potential of the medicinal plants in the state and submit to the National Medicinal Plants Board.

Selected cultivators from 459 districts in the different states have been given / approved for subsidy for cultivation of medicinal plants under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "National Mission on Medicinal Plants". There is no limit for covering number of districts in any state. The states are free to select cluster of cultivators from as many as districts as they can under the Annual Action Plan of the scheme.