

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2591
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2012
RESEARCH IN HERBAL MEDICINE
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO), Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DIPAS) and Institute of Nuclear Medicines and Allied Sciences (INMAS) have been conducting certain research on Herbal Medicines for more than two decades;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the expenditure incurred on these research during the last three years;
- (c) the reasons for conducting research on Herbal Medicines keeping in that view his Ministry does not recognize Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH); and
- (d) the fresh steps taken by the Government to include AYUSH medical treatment for soldiers?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DIPAS) and Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), both laboratories of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) are engaged in R&D on herbs that grow in harsh climatic and high altitude environments for development of herbal based formulation for troops located in high altitude and cold desert environments. These laboratories have developed some adjuvant,

Aloe Vera cream for combating frostbite, performance enhancers under extreme environments, herbal based countermeasures against exposure to radiation, formulation against mosquitoes under North Eastern environments and Lucoskin for treatment of Lucoderma.

A sum of approximately ` 5 Crore has been spent on the research during the last three years.

(c) & (d): These laboratories are primarily focused on military physiology and radiation biology which includes human performance enhancement under different environments and also enhancement of health of military personnel through radiation science approach. These R&D endeavors also include research on herbal medicines and Yoga for improving health and performance of soldiers in extreme environments as these formulations are safer. These laboratories are also engaged in development of customized Yoga packages for Armed Forces.