

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1415
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2009
AYURVEDIC MEDICINES
Lal Shri Kirodi ;Venugopal Shri K. C.

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

- (a) the details of the Medicinal and Herbal Plants available in the country;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to set up manufacturing units for the production of Ayurvedic Medicines in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has also prepared new guidelines to streamline the process of issuing licenses for production of such medicines; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent multi-national companies from getting the patent rights over the traditional Ayurvedic Medicines?

Answer

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

(a): About 6,000 – 7,000 plants are estimated to be in use in Indian Systems of Medicines and folk medicines. Out of these, 1,700 medicinal plants, have been documented in traditional medicines. According to a study conducted by the National Medicinal Plants Board through the Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Tradition (FRLHT), 960 medicinal plants are in use in trade.

(b): No, Sir.

(c): Does not arise

(d)&(e): Yes. The Government has issued directions to the State Licensing Authorities under section 33P of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act 1940 to streamline the system for licensing of Patent & Proprietary Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani (ASU) products under Rule 154 & 154A of the Drug & Cosmetic Rule, 1945. The State Government have been asked to set up an expert committee under the chairpersonship of State Drug Licensing authorities of ASU drugs as per the provisions of Rule 154(II) for advising the State licensing authorities before any patent & Proprietary ASU medicines is licensed for production by one manufacturing unit.

The Department of AYUSH has established the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) in collaboration with the Council of Scientific & Industrial research (CSIR), in the Ministry of Science and Technology to prevent the misappropriation of traditional knowledge by multinational companies. Medicinal formulations present in classical texts of Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Yoga in Sanskrit, Hindi, Urdu, Arabic, Persian and Tamil languages are being transcribed in patent application format in five international languages namely English French, German, Spanish and Japanese, for sharing with International Patent Offices including United States Patent Office (USPO) & European Patent Office.