

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:956

ANSWERED ON:04.03.2013

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE ON MEDICINAL PLANTS

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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has set up Centre of Excellence on Medicinal Plants and Traditional knowledge in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the objectives of the centre;
- (c) the total fund allocated to the said centre during the last three years and the current year;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal for increasing the allocation for the said centre; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India, has set up a Centre of Excellence on Medicinal Plants and Traditional Knowledge at the Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT), Bengaluru in September 2002. The objectives of the Centre, which works in project mode, are as under:

- i) Herbarium of Medicinal Plants and Raw Drugs Repository
- ii) Pharmacognosy studies
- iii) Mapping of natural distribution of medicinal plants for prioritization of species, habitats and zones for conservation
- iv) Ethno-medicinal garden
- v) Biology of Medicinal Plants
- vi) Training, Capacity building and Outreach.

(c) The Ministry released Rs.296.77 lakh during the last three years i.e. 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 to the Centre and has allocated a sum of Rs 115/- lakh for 2012-13.

(d) & (e) The Ministry of Environment and Forests constituted an Expert Group, in January 2012, to review the performance of the Centre from 2007 to 2012. The Group found the progress of the Centre to be satisfactory and suggested the Work Plan for the Centre for the 12th Plan period. The Group also recommended additional objectives and corresponding budget for the Centre, subject to availability of funds and other necessary approvals during the 12th Plan. The recommendations of the Group have been endorsed by the Ministry.