

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1752

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2013

MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANTS .

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey on the availability of medicinal/aromatic plants and herbs across the country and if so, the details and the outcome thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the steps taken/proposed by the Government for the identification, conservation, cultivation and commercial exploitation of medicinal/aromatic plants and herbs in the country;
- (c) the financial assistance allocated and utilised for the above purpose during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether funds have also been released to the Governmental and NonGovernmental Organisations for the above purpose and if so, the details thereof during the said period, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the outcome of review/evaluation of works carried out by the above Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. SANTOSH CHOWDHARY)

(a): As per information received from Botanical Survey of India (BSI), an organization under Ministry of Environment & Forest, who are mandated for survey of plant diversity of the country, its documentation, including traditional knowledge associated with it at National, Regional, State and Ecosystem level and its conservation in different parts of the country, BSI has been carrying out survey and documentation of all plant resources of the country including medicinal/aromatic plants and herbs. The BSI is the nodal repository for Reference Plant Collections and at present houses about 3.2 million specimens in its different herbaria, which help in taxonomic characterization and monitoring of species, including medicinal plants.

According to a study on medicinal plants species of India undertaken by Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT), Bangalore and supported by the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), there are 6560 plants species used as medicinal plants in the country. According to another study conducted through the FRLHT, the annual demand of medicinal plants in the country was estimated at 3,19,500 Metric Tones (MTs). In all 960 medicinal plants are traded, out of which 178 have annual consumption of more than 100 MTs. The study was published in year 2008 and is available on the website of the NMPB i.e. [www.nmpb.nic.in](http://www.nmpb.nic.in) under title "Demand and Supply Study - NMPB & FRLHT (2008)".

(b): The Botanical Survey of India (BSI) has been carrying out identification, survey, documentation of the medicinal/aromatic plants and herbs in the country at National, Regional, State and Ecosystem level and its conservation in different parts of the country.

The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) of Department of AYUSH is implementing following schemes for sustainable management, cultivation and commercial exploitation of medicinal plants:-

(i) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "National Mission on Medicinal Plants"

(ii) Central Sector Scheme for "Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants"

In addition, an ICAR institute viz. Directorate of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Research (DMAPR) located at Anand, Gujarat as well as the AICRP on Medicinal & Aromatic Plants and Betelvine (AICRPMAP & B) are working for the identification, conservation, cultivation and commercial exploitation of medicinal /aromatic plants and herbs in the country.

(c) & (d): Information regarding year-wise funds allocated for both the schemes of NMPB is as under:-

Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "National Mission on Medicinal Plants":

	Rs. in crore	
Year	BE	RE

2010-11	50.00	50.00
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2011-12	56.14	56.14
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2012-13	65.00	54.84
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2013-14	70.00	#
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**Central Sector Scheme for `Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants`:**

Year	Rs. in crore	
	BE	RE

2010-11	50.00	54.50
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2011-12	58.00	52.50
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2012-13	65.00	48.56
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2013-14	70.00	#
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Information regarding State / UT wise fund utilized by NMPB on account of financial assistance for the project proposals of States / UTs is provided at Annexure-I & II.

(e): Third party evaluation of the schemes has been conducted and the preliminary findings show that, in general, the schemes have been useful and made a good impact for conservation and augmentation of the medicinal plants.