

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMEOPATHY (AYUSH)
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5141

ANSWERED ON:24.04.2015

MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANTS HERBS

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Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMEOPATHY (AYUSH) be pleased to state:

- (a) India's export of medicinal/aromatic plants, herbs and medicines during each of the last three years, along with the steps being taken to promote the same in view of their rising global demand;
- (b) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for mapping and documentation of these plants and herbs and also for their protection from being patented in other countries;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up the National Institute of Medicinal Plants in the country, if so, the details thereof along with the funds earmarked for the purpose, location and State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to provide crop insurance and introduce minimum support price for medicinal/ aromatic plants and herbs, and if so, the details thereof; and contd
- (e) the measures being taken by the Government to promote cultivation of medicinal/aromatic plants and herbs, related drug manufacturing activities and hindi labeling on AYUSH Medicines?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

(a): As per information furnished by Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council (Pharmexcil) of Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India's export of AYUSH and value added products of medicinal plants is given in table below:

India's exports of Ayush products including medicinal herbs & their value added products.

(Rs. in Crores)

S.No.	Commodity	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
1.	Ayush	182.23	889.98	973.89
2.	Value added products of medicinal plants.	176.25	1264.01	1246.09

Information for the year 2014-15 is not available with the Pharmexcil. For export promotion of traditional medicines, every year the Pharmexcil is participating in leading traditional medicines exhibitions such as Vita foods at Geneva, Supply Side West and Engredea at USA to showcase the AYUSH products at global platform. Further, the Pharmexcil is organizing Reverse Buyer Seller Meets focused on herbals and Ayush products every year, enabling small and medium companies to develop relation / start business with importers and distributors of the traditional medicine extracts and products.

(b): Botanical Survey of India (BSI), an organization under Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change 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.

Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) a Research Council of this Ministry is conducting Medico-ethno Botanical survey al different regions across the country through its peripheral institutes (wz. Itanagar-Arunachal Pradesh. Bangalore-Karnataka, Jhansi-Uttar Pradesh and Tari khet - Uttarakhand), for documenting and publishing the same from time to time.

Likewise, another research council of this Ministry viz. the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) is also collecting information on availability of medicinal plants in different forest areas under the survey and cultivation of Medicinal plants programme.

To prevent misappropriation of the country's traditional medicinal knowledge. Ministry` of AYUSH in collaboration with CSIR has established a Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) which entails transcription of Ayurveda, Unani. Siddha codified texts into

English. German. French. Japanese and Spanish. The database is shared with patent offices of other countries and forms part of their pre-grant searches.

(c): Government is considering setting up of National Institute of Medicinal Plants (NIMP) for which an allocation of Rs. 100.00 crores has been made during the 12th Plan, out of which funds amounting to Rs. 50.00 lakhs are earmarked during the current financial year. In this connection, the Government is in the process of identifying suitable land in the country.

(d): Under the Scheme of National AYUSH Mission (NAM) of this Ministry, there is a provision for providing assistance for payment @ 50% of the premium for a particular crop. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has formulated schemes to introduce Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forests Produce (MFP) including a few medicinal plants, collected from the wild.

(e): National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) of Ministry of AYUSH has been implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'National Mission on Medicinal Plants' since 2008-09. The Scheme is now a part of the National AYUSH Mission (NAM). The Scheme is primarily aimed at supporting market driven cultivation of medicinal plants on private land with backward linkages through establishment of nurseries for supply of quality planting material, and forward linkages for post-harvest management, processing, marketing infrastructure, certification, crop insurance etc.

For commercial manufacturing of Ayurvedic Siddha and Unani drugs, license is required from the State Licensing Authority and Good Manufacturing Practices and observance of standards given in the Pharmacopoeias are mandatory. Mention of shelf life or expiry date and use of excipients, preservatives etc. for the ASU Medicines has been provided.

Under Rule 161 of the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules 1945, provisions have been made for labelling on Ayurvedic, Siddha or Unani drugs in both English and Hindi languages.