

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:597

ANSWERED ON:18.11.2016

Medicinal Plants

Bhaleram Shri Dharambir; Bohara Shri Ramcharan; Patil Shri A.T. (Nana)

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

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any comprehensive study on the availability of medicinal/fragrant plants and herbs in the country, if so, the details and outcome thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for identification, documentation, conservation/ protection, cultivation, commercial exploitation and constant management of medicinal/fragrant plants and herbs in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the details of funds allocated/ released/utilised thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has received a number of proposals from various States and institutions to setup herbal gardens, if so, the details thereof State/UTwise including Maharashtra along with the action taken by the Government thereon; and
- (e) other measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for setting up herbal gardens in the country, State/UTwise and locationwise?

Answer

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

(a): The Botanical Survey of India (BSI), an organization under Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, has been carrying out survey, identification and documentation of all plant resources of the country including medicinal / fragrant / aromatic plants and herbs. As per BSI estimate more than 8,000 species of medicinal / fragrant / aromatic plants and herbs are found in the country.

The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH has also conducted a study through an organisation viz. Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT), Bangalore and developed a database on Indian Medicinal Plants which contain information about the habitat and therapeutic uses of more than 7,000 medicinal plants species. This database is in public domain (www.medicinalplants.in).

(b) & (c): The NMPB since its inception in year 2000 has been implementing various schemes / programmes for overall development of the medicinal plants sector in the country. Presently, the NMPB is implementing following schemes on Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants throughout the country:

I. Central Sector Scheme on "Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants" aimed at providing project based support for survey, inventorization, in-situ conservation through development of Medicinal Plants Conservation and Development Areas (MPCDAs), ex-situ conservation through establishment of herbal gardens, linkage with Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) / Panchayats / Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) for value addition activities like drying, grading, storage, primary processing and Research & Development etc. The scheme is being implemented since 2008 and continued during the 12th Plan.

II. Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National AYUSH Mission (NAM) having a component on Medicinal Plants which is primarily aimed at supporting cultivation of medicinal plants on farmers land with backward linkages through establishment of nurseries for supply of quality planting material, and forward linkages for post-harvest management. The cultivation of medicinal plants is supported by providing financial assistance as subsidy to farmers through the identified implementing agency of concerned state. The financial assistance is provided as per the State Annual Action Plan approved for concerned State. Prior to NAM Scheme, the cultivation of medicinal plants was being supported under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "National Mission on Medicinal Plants" of NMPB implemented from years 2008-09 to 2014-15.

The details of funds allocated / released / utilised under both the above schemes during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise is at Annexure-I & II.

(d) & (e): The NMPB under its "Central Sector Scheme on Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants" provides support for establishing various kind of herbal gardens such as those of National / State importance and at the level of Regional / Institutional / College / School and Homes throughout the country including State of Maharashtra. The project based financial assistance in this regard is provided as per the operational scheme guidelines.

As per the scheme guidelines, the project proposals received from different states are considered by Project Screening Committee (PSC) and approved in Standing Finance Committee (SFC) of NMPB. During last three financial years and the current year, more than 250 project proposals on various kind of herbal gardens were received of which 72 project proposals has been approved. The State/UT-wise detail is at Annexure-III.