

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4676  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.05.2007  
REGARDING  
“Cultivation of Medicinal Plants”**

**SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN:**

**SHRI E.G SUGAVANAM:**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE

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

(a) whether the Government has any scheme to provide financial help for medicinal plant in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the programmes being implemented by the Government for the cultivation of medicinal plants in Tamil Nadu;

(d) the areas identified for the purpose; and

(e) the progress made so far under the programme?

**(a) & (b)** Medicinal Plants Board has been setup to coordinate matters related to development of medicinal plants sector. The Board has formulated and implemented schemes for cultivation & development of medicinal plants throughout the country including State of Assam. So far the Board has sanctioned 26 projects involving financial implication of amount Rs.294.65 lacs to various organizations in Government and Non-Government sector for development and cultivation of medicinal plants in the state of Assam.

**(c) to (e)**

Schemes of Medicinal Plants Board have been implemented In the state of Tamilnadu also. The schemes of the Board are demand driven, therefore, no areas have been identified specifically. However, 64 projects involving financial outlay of Rs. 171.85 lacs have been sanctioned under Contractual Farming Schemes for cultivation of medicinal plants covering 22 districts.

Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has launched a

Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in the country during Tenth Five Year Plan w.e.f 2005-06 for holistic development of Horticulture sector. Promotion of cultivation of Medicinal Plants has been included as one of the components under NHM during 2006-07.

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1458**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 24-08-2007**  
**REGARDING**  
**“Medicinal plants in the country”**

**SHRI SAMAN PATHAK**

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

MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

- a.) whether Government have details of species of medicinal plants and their numbers found in the country; (a) As per available reports, it is estimated that there are about 8000 plant species having medicinal properties
- b.) whether it is a fact that the medicinal plants which are found in the Himalayan regions are being taken out of the country illegally; and (b) There are no such reports.
- c.) whether Government have any proposal to open research centres for medicinal plants in the Himalayan region, Darjeeling and Sikkim? (c) There is no such proposal. Government has set up a Task Force on High Altitude Medicinal Plants to deal with various issues related to development of these plants.

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2200  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29-08-2007  
REGARDING  
“Development of Medicinal plants”**

**SHRI N. JANARDHAN REDDY**

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

MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE

- (a) whether the Government has made any comprehensive plan to develop medicinal plants in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(a) & (b) Government has set up Medicinal Plants Board vide Resolution notified on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2000. The objectives of establishing the Board is to establish an agency which would be responsible for co-ordination of all matters relating to medicinal plants, including drawing up policies and strategies for conservation, proper harvesting, cost-effective cultivation, research and development, processing, marketing of raw material in order to protect, sustain and develop this sector. The Board has been implementing schemes for various promotional activities including survey, inventorisation, documentation, in / ex-situ conservation, extension activities for increasing awareness, training of growers and collectors, research & development etc. in the field of medicinal plants.

- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up a medicinal plants processing zone in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to give some incentives to the farmers for growing such plants; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?
- (c) & (d) It is proposed to implement a “Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up of Medicinal Plants Processing Zones including Cultivation, Processing and Marketing” for medicinal plants during 11<sup>th</sup> Plan . Under the scheme Medicinal Plants Processing Zones (MPPZs) are proposed to be set up in (5) different regions of the country viz. Western, Central, Southern, Eastern and North Eastern. The MPPZs will have facility for warehousing, drying, grading, storage and transportation etc. Financial assistance will also be provided as per the scheme after its approval.
- (e) & (f) The Medicinal Plants Board is already implementing Contractual Farming Scheme under which financial assistance @ 30% of the project cost, maximum upto Rs. 9.00 lacs, is provided to farmers / growers for cultivation of identified medicinal plants.

The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture has also implemented programmes viz “ National Horticulture Mission and “Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture”. Financial assistance is provided to the farmers for cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants @ 75% of the total cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 11,250/ha limited to 4 ha per beneficiary under these schemes.

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4064  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12-09-2007  
REGARDING  
“Farming of Medicinal plants”**

**SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:**

**SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE

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

**(a) & (b)** Yes Sir.

- (a) whether the Union Government has encourage the farmers for farming of medicinal plants in the country, particularly in Bihar; National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) in the Department of AYUSH has been implementing Contractual Farming Scheme in the country including the State of Bihar.
- (b) if so, the details thereof; Financial Assistance is admissible under this scheme for cultivation of identified medicinal plants @ 30% of the project cost upto a maximum of Rs. 9 lacs. The Board has sanctioned 11 projects involving total approved cost of Rs. 34.44 lakhs in Bihar. Out of it Rs. 17.22 lakhs has been released on account of 1<sup>st</sup> installment.
- (c) the amount allocated for encouragement of farming of medicinal plants, State-wise, year-wise, till date;
- (d) whether the Government proposes for training and facilities to farmers for marketing of medicinal plants;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the number of such training centres functioning in the country, State-wise?
- Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture has also implemented Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in the country since year 2005-06 for development of Horticulture sector. All the States/ UTs including Bihar are covered under the Mission except the eight North Eastern States including Sikkim and the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal which have been covered under the Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North Eastern States. Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to the farmers for cultivation of Medicinal and Aromatic plants @ 75% of the total cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 11,250 / ha limited to 4 ha per beneficiary. During 2007-

08 an allocation of Rs. 337.50 lakh has been approved “in-principle” for cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants including spices under the Horticulture Mission in the State of Bihar.

**(c)** Financial assistance has been released under Contractual Farming Scheme by National Medicinal Plants Board for projects implemented in the States/ UTs as per Statement **enclosed**.

**(d) to (f)** Projects have been sanctioned by National Medicinal Plants Board under the Promotional scheme for organisation of training programmes for farmers through various government / non-government organizations. Organizations viz. Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Lucknow, State Agriculture Universities and various Research Institutes in States/UTs. It is proposed to set up the facilitation centres in State Agricultural Universities and Research and Development Institutes of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE) so as to provide information to growers on all aspects of medicinal plants cultivation, processing and marketing and also to conduct training and on- farm demonstrations. There are, however, no centres exclusively for the purpose of training set up by the Department of AYUSH.

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4171  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12-09-2007  
REGARDING  
“Home Herbal Gardens Project”**

**SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:**

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

- (a) the details of herbal based medicines consumed in the country presently;
- (b) whether the Government has launched Home Herbal Gardens project recently;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the extent of benefit to Ayurveda by such initiatives in the country?

MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

a) According to various reports, 80% of world's population depend on plants based medicines prescribed in traditional systems of medicines and various health products for their health care needs. The fast growing herbal sector has its roots in the very rich and diverse health care traditions in India which includes the codified systems like Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Tibetan and Homeopathy. Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health & Traditions (FRLHT) estimates that about 6000 plants are used in the codified and the folk systems. Of these about 2400 plants are used in the codified systems alone. Herbal formulations under various codified systems of medicines in India are the largest consumers of herbal raw drugs in the country. The licensed / unlicensed herbal ASU, drugs units and a large number of non-commercial users like licensed practitioners of ASU drugs (6,81,000), folk healers (10,00,000) and millions of households across the country also form a sizable consumer segment of the herbal material.

**(b) to (d) :** National Medicinal Plants Board



has implemented a project viz. "Community Outreach Programme for Promotion of Herbal Gardens & Institutional Herbal Gardens" through The Energy & Resources Institute (TERI) which includes setting up of home herbal gardens by people growing commonly used medicinal plants like Tulsi, Ashwagandha, Ghritkumari, Haldi, Kalmegh, Pudina, Sarpagandha etc. The Scheme has been recently launched. Under the project to be implemented through TERI, about 2 lakh plants are proposed to be distributed to residents in Delhi through the Residents Welfare Associations. Implementation of such programmes would augment efforts for creation of awareness about the commonly used medicinal plants and promotion of health care measures prescribed in Ayurveda.

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 678  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21-11-2007  
REGARDING  
“Medicinal Plants in Hilly Areas”**

**SHRI SURESH ANGADI:**

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

MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

- (a) whether thousands of medicinal plants, herbals are found in the hilly areas of the country, especially in Western Ghat region and around Belgaum region;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has taken any concrete steps for proper use of these medicinal plants; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) Government has set up a Task Force to look into various aspects related to development of high altitude medicinal plants. Further, it has been decided in the last meeting of Medicinal Plants Board to set up a Task Force for development of medicinal plants found in Western Ghat.

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 696  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21-11-2007  
REGARDING  
“Medicinal Plants”**

**SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:**

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

- (a) whether more than 8,000 plant varieties are found in the country as per the report of the Aromatic and Medical Plant Growers Association;
- (b) if so, whether any study has been conducted by the Government regarding conservation and utilisation of large number of plants available in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any subsidy is being provided by the Government for the production and marketing of said plants;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether any steps have been taken or being taken by the Government keeping in view the possibilities of export of medicinal plants; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**a) , (b) & (c)** It is estimated that out of about 17,500 species of Angiosperms recorded in the flora of the country, about 8000 species are with medicinal properties. These species are listed in different floras published by Botanical Survey of India. The Botanical Survey of India has also prepared an inventory of 3270 rare & threatened plants of India, which also include the medicinal plants. Botanical Survey of India conducts routine surveys. Medicinal Plants are also collected and brought under cultivation /ex-situ conservation in various Botanical Gardens. The National Medicinal Plants Board is also implementing schemes for in-situ / ex-situ conservation, survey and inventorisation.

**(d) & (e)** National Medicinal Plants Board has implemented Contractual Farming Scheme under which financial assistance @ 30% of the project cost, maximum up to Rs. 9.00 lacs, is provided to farmers / growers for cultivation of identified medicinal plants. Besides, National Horticulture Mission, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation also supports cultivation of medicinal plants under its

scheme. National Horticulture Board is implementing a Scheme “Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management” under which back ended capital investment subsidy @ not exceeding 20% of the total project cost with a maximum limit of Rs. 25.00 lakh per project is admissible. For the North-Eastern / Tribal / Hilly Areas, the maximum limit of subsidy is Rs. 30.0 lakh per project. The financial assistance for hi-tech cultivation of herbal crops is also covered under the scheme.

**(f) & (g)** Some of the steps taken are as under:

- (i) Setting up of the National Medicinal Plants Board to augment availability of medicinal plants for preparation of quality medicines.
- (ii) Organisation of Arogya exhibitions and international buyer seller meet by the Department of AYUSH in India
- (iii) Support provided to industry to participate in International Trade Fairs to exhibit their products. Schemes are also in place for funding market surveys
- (iv) Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) have been notified
- (v) Publication of monographs on Indian Medicinal plants, Intra mural and extra Mural research on Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy by AYUSH

## Research Councils

(vi) Publication of Ayurvedic/ Siddha /  
Homoeopathy Pharmacopoeias /  
Formularies

(vii) Assistance to States for  
upgradation of their AYUSH Drug  
Testing Laboratories

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 579  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21-11-2007  
REGARDING  
“Cultivation of Herbal Crops”**

**PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL:**

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to promote the cultivation of herbal crops in view of the increasing demand of Ayurvedic medicines in foreign countries; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**(a) & (b)** National Medicinal Plants Board has been set up by Government to coordinate matters relating to development of medicinal plants sector. The Board has implemented Contractual Farming Scheme under which financial assistance @ 30% of the project cost, maximum upto Rs. 9.00 lacs, is provided to farmers / growers for cultivation of identified medicinal plants. Besides, National Horticulture Mission, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation also supports cultivation of medicinal plants under their scheme. National Horticulture Board is implementing a Scheme viz. “Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management” under which back ended capital investment subsidy @ not exceeding 20% of the total project cost with a maximum limit of Rs. 25.00 lakh per project is admissible. For the North-Eastern / Tribal / Hilly Areas, maximum limit of subsidy is Rs. 30.0 lakh per project. The financial assistance for hi-tech cultivation of herbal crops is also covered under the scheme.

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2700  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05-12-2007  
REGARDING**

**“Setting up of National Medicinal Plants Board”**

**SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR &**

**SHRI K. VIRUPAKSHAPPA:**

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

- (a) the number of States who have constituted National Medicinal Plants Board to ensure protection & promotion of Medicinal Plants;
- (b) whether the work of such Board has been reviewed;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether subsidy amount of Rs. 3 crores was taken back which was due to Karnataka Farmers;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefore; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

**(a)** None of the States have constituted National Medicinal Plants Board. However, the National Medicinal Plants Board has been set up by Central Government vide Resolution notified on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2000. The National Medicinal Plants Board has facilitated setting up of state level Boards in 35 States/UTs called the ‘State Medicinal Plants Boards (SMPBs)’ to coordinate matters relating to development of medicinal plants and to implement and monitor the schemes.

**(b) & (c)** Performance of these Boards is periodically reviewed by organizing national and regional level workshops and meetings of SMPBs. The last national workshop was held at New Delhi on 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2007. The working of SMPBs is also reviewed by senior officers while on tours to the States. So far the performance of these State/UT Boards has not been up to desired level for want of required infrastructure, officers, staff and funds from State/UT governments.

**(d), (e) & (f)** No, Sir. However, some projects sanctioned under Contractual Farming Scheme of National Medicinal

Plants Board in the State of Karnataka had to be cancelled for non compliance by the beneficiaries with guidelines of the scheme. Matter has already been taken up with State government of Karnataka to strengthen the Board for better implementation and monitoring of the scheme.