

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2690
ANSWERED ON 23.03.2023

Patents granted by Traditional Knowledge Digital Library

2690. SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of patents granted by Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) during the last five years, year-wise;
- (b) the funds allocated for and utilised by TKDL during the last five years, year-wise; and
- (c) whether Government plans to roll out schemes to increase the number of transcripts and patents granted by TKDL in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

- (a) The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) is a pioneering initiative of the Government of India to prevent exploitation and to protect Indian traditional knowledge from misappropriation at Patent Offices worldwide. The TKDL was set up in 2001 by the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) jointly with the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH). The access of the TKDL database containing over 4.39 lakh formulations from ancient texts of Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, and Sowa Rigpa and practices of Yoga, is given to patent offices world-wide that have signed Non-disclosure Access Agreements with the CSIR, for search of TKDL evidences in the context of patent applications filed with them. The TKDL prior art database is currently available to 15 patent offices.

It may be noted that patents are not granted by Traditional Knowledge Digital Library. However, in addition to the use of TKDL database by patent offices for examination of patent applications, the CSIR-TKDL Unit also files third party observations and pre-grant oppositions on patent applications related to Indian traditional knowledge, based on the TKDL evidences. Since 2009, 283 patent applications have been either refused, withdrawn/deemed withdrawn or amended or set aside on the basis of TKDL evidence, thus protecting Indian traditional knowledge.

- (b) The funds allocated and utilised for the traditional knowledge digital library in last five years, year-wise are as under:

(Rs.in lakh)		
Financial Year	Funds Allocated	Funds Utilized
2017-18	159.876	159.876
2018-19	433.325	433.325
2019-20	621.561	621.561
2020-21	353.256	353.256
2021-22	1174.06	1174.06
Total	2742.078	2742.078

- (c) Question does not arise in view of the role of TKDL as provided in response to (a) above.
