

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3807
(ANSWERED ON 03.04.2025)

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE DIGITAL LIBRARY

3807# Dr. Kalpana Saini:

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

- (a) the salient features of Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) and the manner in which it has been developed for preservation and promotion of traditional knowledge of India, the details thereof; and
- (b) the type of progress made under TKDL so far and the status of digitization of the traditional medical systems, herbs, medicinal knowledge and other traditional methods included in it and the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR THE
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES

(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

- (a) The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) is a prior art database of Indian traditional knowledge established in 2001, jointly by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy (Dept. of ISM&H, now Ministry of Ayush). The TKDL was established to prevent misappropriation of Indian traditional knowledge (TK) by way of intellectual property rights. The TKDL currently contains information from ancient texts related to ISM such as Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa and Yoga along with relevant medicinal plant related information. The information from ancient texts of medicine and health existing in local languages such as Sanskrit, Hindi, Arabic, Persian, Urdu, Tamil, Bhoti etc., have been transcribed into five international languages, namely English, French, German, Spanish and Japanese in the TKDL database. The TKDL thus serves as a robust prior art database of Indian TK information therewith offering the information in languages and format understandable by patent examiners at Patent Offices worldwide. This defensive protection through TKDL has been effective in safeguarding Indian traditional knowledge from misappropriation, and is considered a global benchmark.

The access to this database is given to patent offices worldwide that have signed non-disclosure Access Agreements with the CSIR, for the purposes of search and examination in the context of patent applications filed. The TKDL prior art database is currently available to 17 patent offices - including the Indian Patent Office (Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trade Marks), European Patent Office, US Patent Office, Japanese Patent Office, German Patent Office, Canadian Patent Office, Chile Patent Office, Australian Patent Office, UK Patent Office, Malaysian Patent Office, Russian Patent Office, Peru Patent Office, Spanish Patent & Trademark Office, Danish Patent and Trademark Office, National Industrial Property Institute

(INPI, France), Eurasian Patent Organization, and Philippines Patent Office. On the basis of TKDL evidences, so far, 375 patent applications have been either refused, amended or withdrawn/ abandoned, thus protecting Indian traditional knowledge from misappropriation.

- (b) The TKDL database contains information as digitized from the ancient texts of Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha Sowa Rigpa and Yoga. The digitization is done using traditional knowledge resource classification codes that consist of plant names, mineral names, disease conditions, therapeutic actions and so on. The digitized information is value added by correlating the ancient terminologies such the ingredients, measurements, etc., into their modern equivalents.

A total of 515788 formulations/ techniques from the Indian Systems of Medicine and Yoga practices have been transcribed in the TKDL database so far. This includes 148456 formulations/ techniques in Ayurveda, 264196 in Unani, 88403 in Siddha and 8197 in Sowa Rigpa, and 6536 in Yoga practices.

In addition, 2935 surgical methods, devices/ tools, therapies and dietary interventions from Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Sowa Rigpa have been transcribed into the TKDL database.
