

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AYUSH**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 162
ANSWERED ON 22/07/2025**

“Promoting Research & Development in Medicinal Plants”

162 Shri Mukul Balkrishna Wasnik:

Will the Minister of Ayush be pleased to state:

- a) whether Government has made any assessment of the losses incurred due to lack of post-harvest facilities for storage of medicinal plant produce;
- b) if so, the details thereof;
- c) whether Government has any plans to promote research and development in all aspects of medicinal plants, development of agro-techniques, post-harvest management and storage and processing; and
- d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (I/C) OF THE MINISTRY OF AYUSH

(SHRI PRATAPRAO JHADAV)

(a) & (b): Yes, as per the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) supported study entitled “Medicinal Plants in India: An Assessment of their Demand and Supply” by Ved and Goraya published in year 2017, estimated wastage of the raw drugs during post-harvest handling was factored in for estimating annual demand of herbal raw drugs. Total commercial demand of herbal raw drugs in the country for the year 2014-15, converted to dry weight for all entities, was reported to be 5,11,910 MT which includes wastage of 14,910 MT as detailed below:

Reported Annual Demand of Herbal Raw Drugs (Dry Wt. in MT) for 2014-15					
Domestic Herbal Industry	Exports	Rural Households	Wastage	Total	
1,95,000	1,34,500	1,67,500	14,910	5,11,910	

The details are available at:

https://nmpb.nic.in/sites/default/files/Projects/Medicinal_Plants_in_India_An_Assessment_of_their_Demand_and_Supply.pdf

(c) & (d) Yes, National Medicinal Plants Board, Ministry of Ayush is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants throughout the country. The scheme is aimed at providing project-based support for the following activities:

- (i) *In-situ* conservation / *Ex-situ* conservation.
- (ii) Livelihood linkages with Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) / Panchayats / Van Panchayats / Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) / Self Help Groups (SHGs).
- (iii) Establishment of Nurseries and Herbal Garden.
- (iv) Research & Development.
- (v) Promotion, marketing and trade of medicinal plants produce.
- (vi) Information Education & Communication (IEC) activities like Training / Workshops / Seminars/ Conferences etc.
- (vii) Forward and backward linkage in supply chain of medicinal plants (Integrated Component).

Under the aforesaid scheme, NMPB has supported 431 research projects under “Research & Development” component on various aspects of medicinal plants including Agro techniques, post-harvest management etc. to Government/Non-government organizations/research institutions/ universities etc. across the country. Further, NMPB, Ministry of Ayush has supported 09 projects under “Forward and backward linkage in supply chain of medicinal plants (Integrated Component)” throughout the country wherein following activities are supported:

- (i) Infrastructure for Quality Planting Material to raise the planting material of medicinal plants for cultivation.
- (ii) Information Education Communication (IEC) activities to aware the farmers.
- (iii) Infrastructure for Post-Harvest Management and Marketing to increase the marketability of the medicinal plants, adding value to the produce, increasing profitability and reducing losses.
- (iv) Quality Testing and Certification.

Additionally, Indian Council for Agriculture Research - Directorate of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Research (ICAR-DMAPR), Anand, Gujarat along with All India Coordinated Research Project on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants & Betelvine (AICRP-MAPB) headquartered at ICAR-DMAPR, Anand are actively engaged in research and development in all aspects of medicinal plants, development of agro-techniques, post-harvest management and storage & processing. AICRP-MAPB has 23 regular and 3 voluntary centres situated across the country at various State & Central Agricultural Universities and ICAR institutes.