

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY,  
UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY  
(AYUSH)**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2860  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST, 2018**

**MEDICINAL PLANTS**

**2860. SHRI VINOD LAKHAMASHI CHAVDA:  
SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that 93 percent of the wild medicinal plants used for making ayurvedic medicines are endangered and extinction rates are currently 1000 times higher than normal due to deforestation and climate change and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has implemented the National Mission on Medicinal Plants through the National Medicinal Board;
- (c) if so, whether the board has failed to conserve the rare medicinal plants in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to protect the diminishing number of medicinal plants across the country; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes any incentives to the farmers to promote herbal/medicinal farming and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a): Medicinal Plants are the major resource base for making the ayurvedic medicines and as per information provided by Botanical Survey of India (BSI), an organization under Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) mandated for survey of Plant Diversity of the country including medicinal and aromatic plants, the medicinal and aromatic plants are getting threatened and falling in the endangered category largely due to degradation of the forests owing to various anthropogenic factors i.e. over-exploitation, unsustainable collection of these plants and habitat degradation due to change in land-use pattern. As per BSI information, some of the endangered medicinal plants facing higher threat of extinction are: *Aconitum balfouri*, *A. chasmanthum*, *A. deinorrhizum*, *A. falconeri* var *latilobum*, *A. ferox*, *A. heterophyllum*, *Acorus gramineus*, *Allium stracheyi*, *Angelica glauca*, *Anogeissus sericea* var. *numularia*, *Aquillaria mallaccensis*, *Aristolochia bracteolata*,

*A. indica, Arnebia benthamii, Atropa acuminata, Berberis affinis, B. apiculata, B. aristata, Bergenia stracheyi, Capparis pachyphylla, Carum villosum, Colchicum luteum, Coptis teeta, Coscinium fenestratum, Dactylorhiza hatagirea, Dioscorea deltoidea, Elaeocarpus prunifolius, Ephedra gerardiana, Gentiana kurooa, Gloriosa superba, Hedychium spicatum, Hyoscyamus niger, Hydnocarpus macrocarpa, Iphigenia indica, I. pallida, I. stellata, Kolanchoe roseus, Madhuca insignis, Nardostachys grandiflora, Panax pseudoginseng, Picrorhiza kurrooa, Podophyllum hexandrum, Pterocarpus santalinus, Rauwolfia serpentina, Rheum emodi, Saussurea bracteata, S. costus, S. gnaphalodes, Swertia chirayita, Taxus wallichiana, Taxocarpus kurzii, Urginea indica and Urginea maritima.*

(b): Yes, the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) has implemented the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of *National Mission on Medicinal Plants* (NMMP) from financial year 2008-09 to 2014-15. The scheme was primarily aimed at supporting market driven cultivation of medicinal plants on farmer's land with backward linkages through establishment of nurseries for supply of quality planting material and forward linkages for post-harvest management etc. The cultivation of medicinal plants was supported by providing subsidy to farmers through the identified implementing agency in concerned states. Under NMMP Scheme total 95 species of medicinal plants were prioritized for cultivation including some of the Rare, Endangered and Threatened (RET) species like Ashok (*Saraca asoca*); *Swertia chirayita*; Guggal (*Commiphora wightii*); Jatamansi (*Nardostachys jatamansi*); Kuth (*Saussurea costus*); Kutki (*Picrorhiza kurroa*); Atees (*Aconitum heterophyllum*); Daruhaldi (*Berberis aristata*); Tagar (*Valeriana wallichii*) etc. From Financial Year 2015-16, the NMMP scheme has been subsumed as 'Medicinal Plants' Component under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of *National AYUSH Mission (NAM)* of Ministry of AYUSH.

(c) & (d): The promotion of cultivation of Rare, Endangered and Threatened species under NMMP scheme has contributed towards conservation of their natural population in wild. In addition to promoting cultivation of RET species, the NMPB under "Central Sector Scheme for Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants" also provide project based support to conserve the medicinal plants species by way of establishing Medicinal Plants Conservation and Development Areas (MPCDAs) and Resource Augmentation in wild/forest areas.

(e): Yes, the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India under its Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National AYUSH Mission (NAM) is providing financial assistance as subsidy to farmers to promote farming of herbs/medicinal plants throughout the country. Under NAM scheme, there is a component on 'Medicinal Plants' which is primarily aimed at supporting cultivation of herbs/medicinal plants on farmer's land with backward linkages through establishment of nurseries for supply of quality planting material, and forward linkages for post-harvest management. Presently, 140 medicinal plants species have been prioritized for supporting cultivation throughout the country for which the subsidy is provided to farmers @ 30%, 50% and 75% of cost of cultivation. The cultivation programme is implemented through the identified implementing agency of concerned state and the financial assistance is provided as per the State Annual Action Plan approved for concerned State.

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