

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2029
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2018

Plantation of Neem Tree

2029. SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme regarding plantation of neem tree which is important from both environment and health point of view;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to augment the plantation of neem trees; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (e): The National Afforestation Programme (NAP) of MoEF&CC has the provision for inclusion of Neem under the plantation models 'Mixed plantation of trees having MFP and Medicinal Value and Regeneration of perennial herbs and Shrubs of Medicinal Value'. In order to give thrust on plantation of medicinal plants on degraded forest lands and contiguous areas, in addition to other species of local ecological and economic importance in the afforestation activities of the MoEF&CC, it was decided for inclusion of bamboo and medicinal plants including neem in the afforestation activities being undertaken under NAP. This is intended to contribute towards poverty alleviation and also to ensure livelihood security of forest fringe dwellers besides ameliorating soil conditions and improving/increasing forest cover.

Apart from NAP the National Mission for a Green India (GIM) of MoEF&CC also permits plantation of mixed indigenous species by the implementing states.

Besides, as per the information received from National Medicinal Plant Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH, NMPB presently, is implementing a "*Central Sector Scheme on Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants*" throughout the country. Under the scheme project based support is provided for *in-situ /ex-situ* conservation and resource augmentation of various species of medicinal plants including the 'Neem Tree (*Azadirachta indica*)'.

In addition, NMPB, Ministry of AYUSH is also implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National AYUSH Mission (NAM) under which there is a component on “Medicinal Plants” which primarily aimed at supporting 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 throughout the country. Under the scheme presently, Ministry of AYUSH has prioritized 140 species of medicinal plants for cultivation and in this regard financial assistance as subsidy is provided @ 30%, 50% and 75% of the cost of cultivation. The prioritized list under this scheme also covers ‘Neem Tree’ for which financial assistance as subsidy is provided @ 30%.
