

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2777
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28TH DECEMBER, 2018**

SURVEY TO IDENTIFY MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANTS

2777. SHRI K.R.P. PRABAKARAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to identify medicinal and aromatic plants/various herbs in the country particularly in Western Ghats, if so, the details thereof indicating the estimated potential of these plants;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government for documentation, protection, farming and commercial exploitation of these plants along with the funds allocated for the purpose;
- (c) whether the Government proposes any incentives to the farmers to promote herbal farming and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to set up a university or institute specifically for conservation and promotion of medicinal plants; and
- (e) 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): The Botanical Survey of India (BSI), an organization under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change mandated for survey of plant diversity of the country; its documentation, including traditional knowledge associated with it at National, Regional, State and Ecosystem level in different parts of the country. The BSI is carrying out survey and documentation of all plant resources of the country including medicinal/aromatic plants/various herbs and it is estimated that more than 8000 species of medicinal herbs and medicinal plants are found in the country. As per BSI information, about 2000 species of medicinal and aromatic plants are found in Western Ghats.

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(b): Presently, the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on “Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants” under which project based support is also provided for survey, inventorization, *in-situ* conservation through development of Medicinal Plants Conservation and Development Areas (MPCDAs), *ex-situ* conservation through establishment of herbal gardens etc. The funds allocated for the scheme during last three years is as below:

Name of the Scheme	Financial Year	Fund Allocated (Rs. In Crore)
Central Sector Scheme on “Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants”	2015-16	68.88
	2016-17	70.00
	2017-18	71.00

For farming and commercial exploitation of medicinal/aromatic plants/herbs, the Ministry of AYUSH presently promoting large scale cultivation under its Centrally Sponsored scheme of National AYUSH Mission (NAM).

(c): 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. As per NAM scheme guidelines, the fund under this component is shared in the ratio of 60:40 between Central and State Government whereas it is in the ratio of 90:10 in North East & Hilly Regions states and financed 100% by Central Government in Union Territories (UTs). 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.

(d) & (e): Yes, there is a proposal to set up a National Institute of Medicinal Plants in the country under Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India. For the purpose, the Ministry of AYUSH, has identified a location at District Jalgaon of Maharashtra State. In addition, there is also a proposal to set up Institute for High Altitude Medicinal Plants in the State of Jammu & Kashmir under Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India.

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