

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AYUSH**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1525
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10/02/2023**

CULTIVATION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS

1525. SHRI C.R. PATIL:

Will the Minister of **AYUSH** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is implementing the scheme on conservation, development and sustainable management of medicinal plants;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the achievements made by the Government to promote cultivation of medicinal plants under National AYUSH Mission (NAM) in the country; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to promote the cultivation of the medicinal plants among farmers in the country?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF AYUSH
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)**

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. National Medicinal Plants Board, Ministry of Ayush is implementing a scheme entitled “Central Sector Scheme for Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants.” Under the scheme project based support is provided for following activities on medicinal plants:

- (i) Survey Inventorisation, *In-situ* Conservation through Medicinal Plants Conservation and Development Areas (MPCDA) and Resource augmentation
- (ii) *Ex-situ* Conservation / Establishment of Herbal Garden (HG), School Herbal Garden (SHG) and Home Herbal Garden (HHG)
- (iii) Support to Joint Forest Management Committees / Panchayats / Van Panchayats / Biodiversity Management Committees / Self Help Groups for value addition activities like drying, primary processing, storage etc. of Medicinal Plants and thereby generate livelihood to these communities
- (iv) Research & Development
- (v) Information, Education and Communication (IEC) etc.
- (vi) Promotional activities such as establishment of nurseries.

Till date, NMPB, Ministry of Ayush has supported 1498 no. of projects throughout the country under Central Sector Scheme for Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants since its inception. Under the same scheme, NMPB, Ministry of Ayush has supported

103026.32 hectare area under *In-situ / Ex-situ* Conservation and Resource augmentation, 24,000 herbal gardens, 1175 JFMCs, 233 seminars / workshops / conferences / buyer-seller meets / trainings and 57 no. of nurseries. Beside this, NMPB has developed “e-CHARAK” application to provide a platform for trade of Medicinal Plants & to provide easy market access and developed a NMPB helpline in collaboration with CDAC Hyderabad. The details of activities supported and achieved under Central Sector Scheme for Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants is given at **Annexure - I**.

(c) Ministry of Ayush, Government of India had implemented Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Ayush Mission (NAM) to promote the cultivation of medicinal plants from the financial year 2015-16 to 2020-21. Under its ‘Medicinal Plants’ component, market driven cultivation of 140 prioritized medicinal plants in identified clusters/zones was supported and implemented in a mission mode through selected State Implementing agencies throughout the country. As per the scheme guidelines, the support was provided for:

- (i) Cultivation of prioritized medicinal plants on farmer’s land.
- (ii) Establishment of nurseries with backward linkages for raising and supply of quality planting material.
- (iii) Post-harvest management with forwarding linkages.
- (iv) Primary processing, marketing infrastructure etc.

Ministry of Ayush had supported 56,305 hectare area, 220 nurseries, 354 post-harvest management units, 25 Processing Units, 42 Rural / District Collection Centres / Retail outlet, 10 Seed germplasm centres, 15 Demonstration plots etc. under medicinal plants component of National Ayush Mission (NAM) from the financial year 2015-16 to 2020-21. The details of activities supported under National Ayush Mission scheme for medicinal plants component is given at **Annexure - II**.

(d) Under the “Central Sector Scheme on Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants”, there is a provision to support the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities (training programmes, buyer seller meets, workshops, seminars, conferences etc.) and establishment of nurseries & regional cum facilitation centres to promote the cultivation of medicinal plants among farmers.

The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) has supported 233 projects under Information Education and Communication (IEC) activities to aware the local masses about the medicinal plants, 19 projects under marketing of medicinal plants, 57 projects for establishment of nurseries to raise the Quality Planting Material since its inception.

In addition, the National Medicinal Plants Board, Ministry of Ayush through its Regional Cum Facilitation Centres (RCFCs) is also providing financial and technical assistance to farmers/other stakeholders for development of Quality Planting Material of medicinal plants and herbs in different states. As per scheme guidelines provision, NMPB has set up 7 Regional Cum Facilitation Centres

(RCFCs) in project mode to promote various medicinal plants activities in different regions / areas of the country.

Besides this, Ministry of Ayush, Government of India had promoted cultivation of Medicinal Plants throughout the country under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the National Ayush Mission (NAM) from the financial year 2015-16 to 2020-21. Ministry of Ayush had also supported 235 workshops / buyer-seller meets / exposure visits under IEC activities and training for 19061 farmers in the country from the financial year 2015-16 to 2020-21 under the medicinal plants component of National Ayush Mission scheme.

Achievements under Central Sector Scheme for Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants:

Sr. No.	Activities supported	No. of project supported	Achievements
1.	Survey Inventorisation, <i>In-situ</i> / <i>Ex-situ</i> Conservation and Resource augmentation	506	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area covered – 103026.32 hectare • Total no. of MPCDA – 105
2.	Herbal Garden (HG), School Herbal Gardens (SHGs) & Home Herbal Gardens (HHGs).	223	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total No. of HG/ SHGs/ HHGs - 21293 • Total no. of campaigns – 07
3.	Establishment of nurseries	57	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To raise the planting material of medicinal plants.
4.	Support to Joint Forest Management Committees / Panchayats / Van Panchayats / Biodiversity Management Committees / Self Help Groups.	51	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported 1,175 number of JFMC / Van Panchayat / BMCs for value addition of medicinal plants raw material and generation of livelihood to these communities.
5.	Research & Development	402	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project supported on various aspects of medicinal plants such as the Bioactivity guided fractionation, agro techniques, cultivation practices, Documentation etc. • IPR/ Patent - NMPB so far identified 05 unique projects which are novel in nature and patentable. The filings of IPR are under process. • Agro techniques have been published covering 104 medicinal plant.
6.	Information, Education and Communication (IEC) etc.	233	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminars / workshop / conferences / buyer-seller meets / trainings – 216 • Total no. of NRDRs / RRDRs – 05 • Schemes for Voluntary Certifications has been supported – 01 • Projects on publication – 11
7.	Marketing & IT	19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “e-CHARAK” application - To provide a platform for trade of Medicinal Plants & to provide easy market access.
9.	Regional Cum Facilitation Centres	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed 82,28,727 QPM of medicinal plants
	Total No. of projects	1498	

Details of activities supported under Medicinal Plants Component of “National Ayush Mission” (NAM) Scheme, Ministry of Ayush from the Financial Year 2015-16 to 2020-21.

S. No.	Activities supported	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	TOTAL
1	Cultivation of Medicinal Plants (Area in hectare)	8722	12109	10366	9958	6794	8356	56305
2	Maintenance of cultivation	2031	164	163	176	130	10	2673
3	Establishment of Nursery	32	39	38	38	50	23	220
4	Post-harvest Management	62	48	66	52	99	27	354
5	Processing Unit	1	2	3	1	16	2	25
6	Rural / District Collection Centres / Retail outlet	0	11	9	17	2	3	42
7	Seed germplasm centres	0	3	5	0	1	1	10
8	Demonstration plot	0	2	2	2	6	3	15