

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4200
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13TH DECEMBER, 2019**

INDIAN WILD MEDICINAL HERB

**4200. SHRI SUDHAKAR TUKARAM SHRANGARE:
MS. PRATIMA BHOUMIK:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that a rare Indian Wild medicinal herb of Himalaya viz. 'Kutki' (*Picrorhiza Kurroa Royale*) is facing serious threat from a fungal disease, powdery mildew;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to save this rare drug from fungal disease and also its conservation?

ANSWER

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

(a)& (b): Yes, the Government is aware that a fungal disease, powdery mildew, sometime infects the Indian medicinal herb of Himalaya viz. 'Kutki' (*Picrorhiza kurroa*). The powdery mildew disease is caused by a fungus named *Podosphaera fuliginea* and it infects the aerial parts of the herb.

(c): The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH has prioritized this endangered medicinal herb 'Kutki' (*Picrorhiza kurroa*) for its cultivation and conservation. To help cultivation, the NMPB has published *Agro-technique of Picrorhiza kurroa* which also covers the disease management aspect.

For conservation of *Picrorhiza kurroa* in wild/ its natural habitat, under Ministry of AYUSH's "*Central Sector Scheme on Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants*", the project based support is provided to concerned States. Further, to spread awareness among farmers and stakeholders about preserving 'Kutki' (*Picrorhiza kurroa*), including its vulnerability due to fungal infection, from time to time workshops are also organized.

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