

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO.4543
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2020

Environmental Conservation

4543. SHRI ARJUN LAL MEENA:

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

- (a) whether his Ministry has taken steps in coordination with Department of AYUSH forenvironmental conservation/protection and production/promotion of medicinal plants;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether his Ministry proposes to conserve wildlife by establishing coordination with Ministry of Agriculture for encouraging plantation of medicinal plants and fruit bearing trees in order to save animals and bird species from becoming extinct due to scarcity of food supply; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a) and (b) Yes. The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA),in consultation with the Department of AYUSH is addressing issues pertaining to conservation, protection and production of medicinal plants under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

As per Section 38 of the Act,about 150 plant species, which are threatened, have been notified for conservation.In order to promote medicinal plant cultivation, about 173 species have been declared as normally Traded Commodities as per the provisions of the Act.Under the Act, 17 Biodiversity Heritage Sites have been notified to conserve the medicinal plant species.

The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH is presently implementing following schemes to ensure conservation, cultivation, and promotion of Medicinal Plants:

- (i) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National AYUSH Mission (NAM): Under the scheme, the large-scale farming / cultivation of medicinal plants is being supportfor following activities:

- Cultivation of prioritized medicinal plants on farmer's land.
- Establishment of nurseries for supply of quality planting material.
- Post-harvest management.
- Primary processing, marketing infrastructure etc.

(ii) Central Sector Scheme on “Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants” -Under the scheme, the project-based support is provided for following activities:

- *In-situ* conservation through development of Medicinal Plants Conservation and Development Areas (MPCDAs).
- *In-situ/Ex-situ* resource augmentation.
- *Ex-situ* conservation through establishment of herbal gardens.
- Livelihood linkages with Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs)/ Panchayats/ Van Panchayats/ Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) / Self Help Groups (SHGs) etc.
- Information Education Communication(IEC) activities like Training/ workshops/ Seminars/Conferences etc.
- Research & Development.
- Promotion of marketing and trade of medicinal plants produce.

The scheme is implemented through Mission Directors, identified in States/ UTs located in State Horticulture / Agriculture Departments/ Forest Departments/ AYUSH departments and State Medicinal Plants Boards.

Besides it, NMPB also supports conservation/cultivation of fruit bearing trees viz., *Emblicaofficinalis*, *Garcinia indica*, *Hippophaerhamnoides*, *Terminalia chebula*, *Terminalia bellirica* etc.

- (c) and (d) The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India implements Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering medicinal plants, fruits, vegetables, spices, etc. Activities such as production of planting material, seed production, protected cultivation, organic farming etc. are covered under the scheme.
