

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3220
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2025)
TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE DIGITAL LIBRARY**

3220. SHRI DINESHBHAI MAKWANA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) which has been set up as an Indian digital knowledge repository of traditional knowledge; and**
- (b) the progress made in this regard along with the benefits realized thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR THE
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES**

(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) is a prior art database of Indian traditional knowledge established in 2001, jointly by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy (Dept. of ISM&H, now Ministry of AYUSH). The TKDL was established to prevent misappropriation of Indian traditional knowledge (TK) by way of intellectual property rights. The TKDL currently contains information from ancient texts related to ISM such as Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa and Yoga. The information from ancient texts of medicine and health existing in local languages such as Sanskrit, Hindi, Arabic, Persian, Urdu, Tamil, Bhoti etc., have been transcribed into five international languages, namely English, French, German, Spanish and Japanese in the TKDL database. The TKDL thus serves as a robust prior art database of Indian TK information therewith offering the information in languages and format understandable by patent examiners at Patent Offices worldwide. The TKDL thus prevents erroneous grant of patents by patent offices.

The access to this database is given to patent offices world-wide that have signed Non-disclosure Access Agreements with the CSIR, for search of TKDL evidences in the context of patent applications filed with them. The TKDL prior art database is currently available to 17 patent offices - including the Indian Patent Office (Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trade Marks), European Patent Office, US Patent Office, Japanese Patent Office, German Patent Office, Canadian Patent Office, Philippines Patent Office, Chile Patent Office, Australian Patent Office, UK Patent Office, Malaysian Patent Office, Russian Patent Office, Peru Patent Office, Spanish Patent & Trademark Office, Danish Patent and Trademark Office, National Industrial Property Institute (INPI, France) and Eurasian Patent Organization.

In addition to the use of TKDL database by patent offices, the CSIR-TKDL Unit also files third-party observations/pre-grant oppositions on patent applications that have relevance to Indian traditional knowledge. This defensive protection through TKDL has been effective in safeguarding Indian traditional knowledge from misappropriation, and is considered a global benchmark.

(b) A total of 515788 formulations/ techniques from the Indian Systems of Medicine and Yoga practices have been transcribed in the TKDL database so far. This includes 148456 formulations/ techniques in Ayurveda, 264196 in Unani, 88403 in Siddha and 8197 in Sowa Rigpa, and 6536 in Yoga practices. On the basis of TKDL evidences, so far, 375 patent applications have been either refused, amended or withdrawn/ abandoned, thus protecting Indian traditional knowledge from misappropriation.
