

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AYUSH**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED ADMITTED QUESTION NO. 4752
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20/03/2026**

Promotion of Desert Medicinal Plants

4752. Shri Ummeda Ram Beniwal:

Will the Minister of Ayush be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to promote desert medicinal plants such as Guggul (*Commiphora wightii*) and Aloe Vera (*Aloe barbadensis* is miller) through AYUSH-based value chain development and cultivation initiatives;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the schemes or programmes launched or being implemented for the cultivation, conservation, processing, marketing and export promotion of such medicinal plants including the financial assistance and technical support provided to farmers; and
- (c) whether similar promotional and value chain development efforts are being undertaken in other arid and semi-arid States of the Country and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF AYUSH

(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)

- (a) Yes, National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of Ayush promotes the desert medicinal plants such as Guggul (*Commiphora wightii* (Arn.) Bhandari) and Aloe vera (*Aloe barbadensis* Miller) through AYUSH-based value chain development and cultivation initiatives through its Regional-cum-Facilitation Centres (RCFCs) in different geographical regions across the country by providing Quality Planting Material (QPM) to the farmers for cultivation initiative including training programs

on GAP & value addition of these medicinal plants. Further, NMPB under its “Central Sector Scheme on Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants” have provided project based support to State Forest Departments in desert, arid and semi-arid states like Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan for *in-situ* conservation of medicinal plants in their natural habitats by way of establishing Medicinal Plants Conservation and Development Areas (MPCDAs), Resource Augmentation/ Plantation of medicinal plants species in forest areas through *in-situ* resource augmentation. The financial assistance to State Forest Department in this regard is provided as per the cost norms of the Scheme guidelines provisions.

(b) National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of Ayush, Government of India is implementing Central Sector Scheme on “Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants” throughout the country to promote the cultivation of medicinal plants wherein following activities are supported:

- (i) Information Education & Communication (IEC) activities like Training / Workshops / Seminars/ Conferences etc.
- (ii) Forward and backward linkage in supply chain of medicinal plants (Integrated Component).
- (iii) *In-situ* conservation / *Ex-situ* conservation.
- (iv) Livelihood linkages with Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) / Panchayats / Van Panchayats / Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) / Self Help Groups (SHGs).
- (v) Research & Development.
- (vi) Promotion, marketing and trade of medicinal plants produce.

In addition, to provide a platform for trade of Medicinal Plants & easy market access, NMPB has launched “e-CHARAK” mobile application as well as web portal for promotion and marketing of medicinal plants/herbs. The “e-CHARAK” is a platform to enable information exchange between various stakeholders mainly farmers involved in the medicinal plants sector across the country. The “e-CHARAK” application supports different local languages and it also provides fortnightly market price of 100 MPs from 25 herbal markets across India. Currently, e-Charak mobile has Registered users-11,119; Total visitors-30565540; Posted items-7,588; Buyer Sellers Interactions-7114690.

(c) The cultivation activities are not supported under the Central Sector Scheme. However, NMPB, Ministry of Ayush has supported projects under Forward and Backward Linkage in Supply Chain of Medicinal Plants (Integrated Component) of existing Central Sector Scheme from the F.Y. 2023-24, wherein project based support is provided for Infrastructure for Quality Planting Material to raise the planting material of medicinal plants for cultivation, Information Education Communication (IEC) activities to aware the farmers, Infrastructure for Post-Harvest Management and Marketing to increase the marketability of the medicinal plants, adding value to the produce, increasing profitability and reducing losses, Quality Testing and Certification of raw material.

Till date, National Medicinal Plants Board, Ministry of Ayush has approved total 15 project proposals to the different states including Rajasthan and Gujarat under Forward and Backward Linkages in supply chain of Medicinal Plants (Integrated Component) of Central Sector Scheme of NMPB from the Financial Year 2023 -24 to cover approximately 2000 hectare area under cultivation of medicinal plants by providing the Quality Planting Material to the farmers. Details are given at **Annexure-1**.

Further, NMPB also support Information Education & Communication (IEC) activities like Training / Workshops / Seminars/ Conferences etc. under this scheme and has supported 138 projects for organizing training program/seminars/workshops for promotion of cultivation of medicinal plants throughout the country during the financial year 2020-21 to 2024-25, for an amount of Rs.1171.94 Lakh. The details are given at **Annexure-2**.

Annexure- 1**Details of projects approved under Integrated Component of Central Sector Scheme for Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants**

S.No	Financial Year	State	Total approved amount (In lakh)
1	2023-24	Andhra Pradesh	120.00
2	2023-24	Jammu & Kashmir	82.50
3	2023-24	Mizoram	120.00
4	2023-24	Uttarakhand	120.00
5	2024-25	Karnataka	120.00
6	2024-25	Tamil Nadu	95.00
7	2024-25	Kerala	120.00
8.	2024-25	Madhya Pradesh	119.95
9.	2024-25	Gujarat	120.00
10.	2025-26	Rajasthan	120.00
11.	2025-26	Rajasthan	120.00
12.	2025-26	Uttar Pradesh	120.00
13.	2025-26	Uttar Pradesh	100.00
14.	2025-26	Gujarat	120.00
15.	2025-26	Haryana	120.00

Annexure-2

The details of projects [Information Education & Communication (IEC)] sanctioned under the Central Sector Scheme for Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants in the country during the last five years, State/UT-wise

S. No.	State/UT	Financial Year					No of Project sanctioned	Amount sanctioned (Rs. In Lakhs)
		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	01	01	01	0	02	05	42.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	01	0	0	01	14.2
3.	Assam	01	02	03	02	0	08	151.14
4.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	01	01	5.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	01	0	00	01	29.50
6.	Delhi	02	05	06	01	03	17	151.53
7.	Gujarat	0	0	0	01	01	02	22.00
8.	Haryana	01	0	01	01	01	04	14.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	01	01	02	26.57
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	04	0	04	36.91
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	03	0	0	03	11.80
12.	Karnataka	0	03	02	0	03	08	114.87
13.	Kerala	01	0	02	02	0	05	25.50
14.	Ladakh	0	0	02	0	01	03	15.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	0	04	03	0	01	08	72.40
16.	Maharashtra	02	0	02	01	01	06	58.62
17.	Manipur	0	0	01	0	0	01	10.00
18.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	01	01	2.00
19.	Mizoram	0	0	01	0	0	01	5.00
20.	Odisha	03	03	01	02	0	09	23.25
21.	Punjab	01	01	01	02	0	05	35.00
22.	Rajasthan	01	0	0	01	03	05	29.85
23.	Tamil Nadu	0	03	09	04	05	21	98.85
24.	Telangana	0	0	0	01	0	01	10.00
25.	Uttar Pradesh	0	02	01	03	0	06	72.80
26.	Uttarakhand	0	0	01	03	0	04	30.00
27.	West Bengal	01	01	03	0	01	06	64.15
Total		14	25	45	29	25	138	1171.94