

**Promotion of herbal medicines**

†504. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the States where Plantation Boards have been set up to promote the herbal medicines;

(b) whether this move has encouraged the use of herbal medicines and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps being proposed by Government to promote the herbal medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) 35 State Medicinal Plants Boards have been set up in States/UTs to coordinate the matters relating to development of medicinal plants and implementation of schemes of National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB). The Board has been implementing Promotional and Contractual Farming Schemes and has sanctioned projects for cultivation of identified medicinal plants, in-situ/ex-situ conservation, production of planting material of quality, Research and Development, Information, Communication, Education (IEC), market development, survey, inventorisation and value addition, etc. All these steps are expected to augment the availability of medicinal plants for producing medicines of quality and for exports as value added herbal products. Industry sources have confirmed that there is a tangible growth in the sale of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicines in recent years.

Some of the other steps taken to promote herbal medicines are:

(i) Organization of Arogya exhibitions by the Department of AYUSH in India.

(ii) Support provided to industry to participate in International Trade Fairs to exhibit their products. Schemes are also in place for funding market surveys.

(iii) Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) have been notified.

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†Original notice of question was received in Hindi.

(iv) Publication of monographs on Indian medicinal plants, Intra-mural and extra-mural research on Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy by AYUSH Research councils.

(v) Publication of Ayurveda/Siddha/Unani/Homoeopathy Pharmacopoeias/Formularies.

(vi) Assistance to 26 States for upgradation of their AYUSH Drug Testing Laboratories.

(vii) Publication of monographs on Indian medicinal plants, intra-mural and extra-mural research on Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy by AYUSH research councils.

#### **Bio-medical waste units**

†505. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to adopt proper measure for the disposal of bio-medical waste in all the Government hospitals of the country including Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof, as on date; and

(c) if no, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Disposal of Bio-medical waste in hospitals is governed by Bio-medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998 which are binding on all hospitals in the country. In so far as Central Government Hospitals are concerned, they are following these rules. The hospital waste is segregated and collected in the colour coded scheme bags at the collection sites in the wards/units and all hospital premises. These bags are sent to the bio-medical waste plant for further disposal through incinerators/shredders etc. as per requirement for various kind of wastes. Emissions from these incinerators are regularly checked. The authorities from Central/State Pollution Control Boards also visit the hospitals periodically, and wherever required, interact for action with the concerned officers.

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