

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**Preservation of Kutki Jadi**

†156. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH) be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Kutki Jadi (*Picrorhiza Kurroa*), the main component of Arogya Vardhani Vati is found in the regions above 3500 to 4800 metres from sea level in Uttarakhand and which is effective in treatment of several diseases;

(b) if so, whether tapping into it is legal;

(c) if not, whether Government will consider to provide protection to this priceless heritage; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes.

(b) The tapping of Kutki (*Picrorhiza Kurroa*) has been prohibited from the wild areas of Uttarakhand by the State. However, to promote this species, its cultivation by the farmers on their private lands has been permitted by the Government of Uttarakhand.

(c) and (d) As per information received from State Medicinal Plants Board (SMPB), Uttarakhand, following steps have been taken for promoting Kutki in the State of Uttarakhand:

(i) Cluster based cultivation of Kutki is promoted in villages near its natural habitat.

(ii) Quality planting material distributed amongst farmers.

(iii) Medicinal Plants Conservation Area (MPCA) has been established for *in-situ* conservation of Kutki in Bageshwar district, Uttarakhand.

Privatisation of Airports

157. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any memorandum against privatization of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.