

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.

various airports, built, modernized and run by the Airports Authority of India (AAI); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India has received various communications, including references from Members of Parliament, State Governments, Airports Authority of India Employee Forums etc. and observations from Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture, regarding implementation of Public Private Partnership (PPP) at select airports of Airports Authority of India (AAI). Subsequently, the Request for Qualification (RFQ), which were earlier issued for PPP at 6 airports, have been cancelled.

Shortage of cabin crew in AI

158. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's flagship carrier Air India (AI) is facing a heavy rate of attrition with 33 pilots having quit the airline this year alone;

(b) whether there is also a shortage of airhostesses for more than 70 domestic and 16 international flights;

(c) whether the extant Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) guidelines mandate that there must be at least five cabin crew in narrow-body domestic planes with both the doors being operational; and

(d) if so, whether in violation of the DGCA guidelines, many AI flights are operating with the backdoor shown as inoperative due to shortage of cabin crew?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) In this year, 50 pilots have tendered resignation from the services of Air India.

(b) Yes, Sir. Air India has an acute shortage of cabin crew for both domestic and international routes.

(c) No, Sir. DGCA guideline provides for the following Cabin Crew strength in Narrow body aircraft: