

Increase in demand for medicinal crops

805. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE : Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a tremendous growth in interest in plant based drugs and pharmaceuticals in the world;
- (b) whether the demand for medicinal crops for internal as well as for export has been increasing and necessitating the production of medicinal crops on large scale;
- (c) whether Government has taken steps to meet the demand of medicinal crops; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) and (d) National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) of Ministry of AYUSH has been implementing the Central Sector Scheme for Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants under which a grant of ₹ 144.28 crores has been released over the last three years to various organizations including State Forest Departments, R&D institutions for taking up activities relating to overall development of medicinal plant sector. An area of about 30929 hectare has been covered for resource augmentation, *in-situ* conservation and setting up Medicinal Plants Conservation Areas (MPCAs) for these plants, in addition to other related activities.

Besides, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of “National Mission on Medicinal Plants”, the NMPB has released ₹ 140.43 crores to different State Governments over the last three years for cultivation of medicinal plants on farmers land, alongwith backward and forward linkages.

In addition to the above, a network of 670 protected areas (102 National Parks, 517 Wild Life Sanctuaries, 4 Community Reserves and 47 Conservations Reserves) in different bio-geographic regions of the country have been setup under the programmes of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, for conservation and management of flora and fauna of the country, including medicinal plants.