

3. Central Sector Scheme for “Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants”:

Central Sector Scheme for “Conservation, Development, and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants” was approved by Government to provide support for Survey, Inventorization, *in-situ* conservation, *ex-situ* conservation/herbal gardens, linkage with JFMCs, Research and Development etc. The Scheme is being implemented since 2008 and continued during the Twelfth Plan.

4. Centre of Excellence Scheme:

The main aim of the scheme is to support creative and innovative proposals for upgrading both functions and facilities of reputed AYUSH institutions to levels of excellence. Both the Government as well as private organizations are eligible under this scheme. Maximum ₹10.00 Crore is provided to the grantee organization for a period of three years for implementing the scheme.

5. Public Health Initiatives:

Ministry of AYUSH is implementing one Central Sector Grant-in Aid Scheme for promotion of AYUSH Intervention in Public Health Initiatives. The main aim of the scheme is to promote AYUSH intervention for community health care and to encourage utilization of AYUSH practitioners in different public health programmes. Both Government as well as private organizations are eligible under this scheme. Maximum ₹ 1.50 Crore are provided to the grantee organization for the period of three years for implementing the scheme.

Reasons for rising fiscal deficit of the country

†911. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the fiscal deficit of the country is growing rapidly;
- (b) the details of current deficit and the details of steps Government has taken to control the deficit and bring it to acceptable level;
- (c) the details of measures taken by Government during the last six months to enforce financial discipline in the country; and
- (d) the reasons for increasing fiscal deficit?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (d) No, Sir. As seen from the table below, fiscal deficit as percentage of GDP is showing declining trend.

Financial Year	Fiscal Deficit (₹ in crore)	Fiscal Deficit (% of GDP)
2011-12	5,16,269	5.8
2012-13	4,90,190	4.8
2013-14 (Provisional)	5,02,858	4.4
2014-15 (R.E.)	5,12,628	4.1
2015-16 (B.E.)	5,55,649	3.9

(b) and (c) The fiscal deficit for 2014-15 was budgeted at ₹ 5,31,177 crore. In the revised estimates, it has been revised at ₹ 5,12,628 crore which is 4.1 per cent of GDP.

Government is firmly committed to the path of fiscal consolidation. Fiscal consolidation over medium term has been designed with the judicious mix of reduction in total expenditure as percentage of GDP and improvement in gross tax revenue as percentage of GDP. Government has taken measures for fiscal prudence and economy to rationalize expenditure and optimize available resources.

Government has constituted Expenditure Management Commission (EMC) which has been mandated to review the major areas of Central Government expenditure and suggest ways for creating fiscal space to meet developmental expenditure needs, without compromising the commitment to fiscal discipline. Government is committed to progressively pursuing subsidy reforms. Both petroleum and diesel are now decontrolled. The Government has launched a new universal Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme for LPG subsidy from 1st January, 2015 onwards to avoid duplication and prevent leakages. Measures have also been taken by the Government to improve revenue collection.

Impact of reduction in prices of aviation fuel

912. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

- (a) the details of reduction in the prices of aviation fuel since June, 2014;
- (b) the details of reduction in the cost of operation on this account;