

December, 2014 (*i.e.* date of approval by the Cabinet to allow dilution of equity share holding of Government upto 52%) are as under:--

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	Approval Granted (₹ in crores)	Equity Capital Mobilized (₹ in crore)
1.	United Bank of India	500.00	
2.	Bank of India	642.00	641.99
3.	UCO Bank	427.45	427.45
4.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	1000.00	Yet to mobilize
5.	State Bank of India	15,000.00	Yet to mobilize
6.	Central Bank of India	626.23	626.23
7.	Canara Bank	4 crore equity shares	Yet to mobilize

(d) The percentage of credit of total credit given by PSBs distributed in West Bengal is 5.26% for the period 1st April, 2014 to 31st December, 2014.

Cultivation of KUTH medical herb in Uttarakhand

*55. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA : Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) whether medicinal plants traded as KUTH (*Saussureacostus*) is available in the wild (forest) in parts of Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, whether the Kuth is in CITES list in case of Uttarakhand;

(c) the place where first cultivation of this medicinal plants in Uttarakhand was undertaken;

(d) the gap between cultivator and market for marketing of Kuth;

(e) the annual production of the herb and requirement of AYUSH industry; and

(f) whether Government has taken any initiative in the form of minimum support price of medicinal herbs in AYUSH Healthcare system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH) (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSONAIK) : (a) As per information received from State Government of Uttarakhand, the medicinal plant traded as Kuth (*Saussureacostus*) is not available in the wild (forest) in Uttarakhand.

(b) Kuth (*Saussureacostus*) is a threatened species and listed in Appendix I of CITES (The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), which is also applicable to the State of Uttarakhand.

(c) In Uttarakhand, cultivation of Kuth (*Saussureacostus*) was first undertaken in the experimental farm of Forest Department on trial basis at Bhuna in Ghat Block of Chamoli district during the 1920s.

(d) In Uttarakhand, there is no gap between cultivator and market of Kuth (*Saussureacostus*). Farmers cultivating Kuth are registered by Herbal Research and Development Institute (HRDI), Gopeshwar based on the recommendations of Chief Wild Life Warden of the State. Such registered cultivators on application are issued transit passes to transport their cultivated produce to the markets. The Government of Uttarakhand has established three mandies one each at Rishikesh, Ramnagar and Tanakpur from where Kuth and other medicinal plants are marketed.

(e) As per a study on demand and supply of medicinal plants commissioned by the National Medicinal Plants Board, Ministry of AYUSH in the year 2008, Kuth (*Saussureacostus*) is reported to be one of the species which are traded in high volumes *i.e.* in excess of 100 MT per year. In the State of Uttarakhand, as per a study conducted in 2013-14 by The Energy and Research Institute (TERI), New Delhi, the annual consumption of Kuth was estimated to be to the tune of 54 Metric Tonnes (MT).

As per information provided by the Government of Uttarakhand recently, the annual production of Kuth (*Saussureacostus*) in Uttarakhand is about 40-45 quintal.

(f) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has introduced from the year 2013-14, a centrally sponsored scheme of 'Mechanism for marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP' as a measure of social safety for MFP gatherers who are primarily members of Scheduled Tribes. The scheme also includes few selected medicinal herbs.

As far as MSP for Kuth (*Saussureacostus*) is concerned, the Government of Uttarakhand undertook a detailed market survey during the year 2009-10, which revealed

that the MSP for Kuth could be ₹ 150.00 per Kg. In another study carried out by The Energy and Research Institute (TERI), New Delhi, the price range of Kuth (*Saussureacostus*) is estimated to be ₹ 125-150 per Kg. However, in open market, farmers are getting remunerative price for Kuth ranging from 130 to ₹ 250 per Kg which is much more than the cost of cultivation of the species. Therefore, Uttarakhand State Government has not declared the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Kuth.

Aid to Minority Educational Institutions

*56. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of grant given to the Minority Educational Institutions in Delhi under the Maulana Azad Foundation during the last three years; and

(b) the number of educational institutions benefited under the scheme all over the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA): (a) and (b) The Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) does not provide Grant-in-aid to educational institutions directly. Grants-in-aid are given to NGOs for infrastructure development of educational institutions managed by them. The number of NGOs which were sanctioned grants-in-aid during the last three years is as under:

Financial Year	No. of NGOs
2012-13	136
2013-14	120
2014-15	48
TOTAL	304

No funds have been released to any such institutions in Delhi under the Grant-in-aid scheme of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) during the last three years as the proposals received during this period were either incomplete or found ineligible.

Treatment of TB patients

*57. SHRI SANJAY RAUT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two deaths occur every three minutes due to tuberculosis (TB), as more than 17 lakh TB patients have died during the last one year;