

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 (*Saussurea costus*) 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;

(b) if so, what is Government's response thereto; and

(c) whether Government is considering to use standard recording and reporting system for ensuring proper, un-interrupted and timely treatment of all TB patients in the country and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA) : (a) According to WHO global TB report, the number of deaths due to Tuberculosis in India in 2013 was estimated to be around 2.4 lakh (with lower and upper range between 1.5 to 3.5 lakh). The estimated deaths due to TB in India have been gradually reducing from 3.2 lakh in 2010 to 3 lakh in 2011, 2.7 lakh in 2012 and 2.4 lakh in 2013.

(b) The Government has been implementing the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP), widely known as Directly Observed Treatment Short Course (DOTS), which is WHO recommended strategy, in the entire country. Under the programme, diagnosis and treatment facilities including anti TB drugs are provided free of cost to all TB patients. For quality diagnosis, designated microscopy centres have been established for every one lac population in the general areas and for every 50,000 population in the tribal, hilly and difficult areas. More than 13000 microscopy centres have been established in the country. More than 6 lakh treatment centres (DOT centres) have been established near the residence of patients to the extent possible. All Government hospitals, Community Health Centres (CHC), Primary Health Centres (PHC), Sub centres are DOT Centres. In addition, NGOs, Private Practitioners (PPs) involved under the RNTCP, Community Volunteers, Anganwadi workers, Women Self Groups etc. also function as DOT Providers/DOT Centres. Drugs are provided under direct observation and the patients are monitored so that they complete their treatment. Programmatic Management of Drug Resistant TB (PMDT) services, for the management of multidrug resistance tuberculosis (MDRTB) and TBHIV collaborative activities for TBHIV co-infection are being implemented throughout the country.

Ever since implementation of RNTCP, estimated TB mortality in the country has reduced from over 38 per lakh population in 1990 to 19 per lakh population in 2013, as per Global TB Report, 2014.

(c) RNTCP has a systematic recording and reporting system in place, wherein information on treatment of registered TB patients is recorded and reported on standardized formats which is transmitted, both in hard copy and electronically through an epi-info based software, from the most peripheral level to the District, State and National level.

The programme has introduced a case-based, web-based recording and reporting system named 'Nikshay' since 2012, to facilitate individual patient-wise monitoring and tracking of TB treatment.

SC/ST vacancies in Defence Establishments

*58. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is huge backlog vacancies of SC/ST category in the Defence Establishments across the country:

(b) if so, the details thereof: and

(c) the steps taken by Government to till up the vacancies in a time-bound manner?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR) : (a) and (b) Details of backlog vacancies of SC/ST category are as under:-

SC backlog vacancies	ST backlog vacancies	Total No. of SC/ST Backlog Vacancies
3820	3387	7207

(c) Requisition for recruitment against backlog vacancies far SC/ST has been placed with various Central Recruiting agencies namely SSC/UPSC etc. De-reservation of SC/ST vacancies is discouraged and Defence Establishments have been instructed to make concerted efforts to till up the SC/ST vacancies by exercising options in accordance with the guidelines of DoPT.

Additional Central Assistance for Urban Health Projects

*59. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposals from various State Governments including Karnataka for additional Central assistance for Urban Health Projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the proposals;

(c) by when the Central assistance will be released; and

(d) the quantum of amount released in this regard, particularly to Karnataka?