

Government has released Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS), 2012 for different facilities under Department of Health and Family Welfare (DoHFW) like Sub Health Centres (SHCs), Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs) and District Hospitals (DHs). As per the IPHS, there is a provision of collocation of AYUSH medical officers and pharmacists in CHCs and District Hospitals.

(c) In view (a) and (b) the question does not arise.

Checking exploitation by foreigners of the country's medicinal plants

2402. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any measure to check exploitation by foreigners who are visiting India in the name of research study and importing medicinal plants at a huge cost in the name of foreign origin, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether several constraints like inadequate investments in research and development, lack of quality and standardisation norms and lack of adequate marketing and trade information has led to the low share of India's presence in the global trade of medicinal plants; and

(c) if so, the needful initiatives taken by Government for the promotion of herbal and medicinal plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 makes the provision to check the exploitation by the foreigners of biological resources occurring in India which also includes medicinal plants. As per Section-3 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 any foreign individual or entity has to obtain prior approval of the National Biodiversity Authority for undertaking research on the Indian biological resources and/or associated knowledge. There are also quarantine measures to check on any biological material imported by foreigners which also covers medicinal plants.

(b) and (c) The Government of India has set up the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) in November, 2000 to look after the matters related to development of medicinal plants sector in the country and it has been implementing different Schemes/Programmes for overall development of the sector in the country.

The NMPB since its inception in 2000 onwards has been supporting Research and Development projects on various aspect of medicinal plants like Survey and documentation of medicinal plants and traditional knowledge on medicinal plants, standardization of Good Agricultural and Collection Practices (GACPs) and development

of Agro-techniques, development of phytochemical reference standards, monographs laying down standards of quality, safety and efficacy, quality assurance.

The other departments/organizations of Government of India *viz.* Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Department of Science and Technology (DST), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), also supports Research and Development activities on various aspects of Medicinal Plants. However, the reason for low share of India's presence in global trade of medicinal plants is due to huge domestic/national consumption of medicinal plants.

NMPB supported a study on assessment of demand and supply of medicinal plants in year 2008 and has also assigned a similar study in 2014-15 to Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun, to conduct a detailed study-cum-survey to assess the demand and supply of medicinal plants in India in the national perspective, as well as in respect of the international Market.

In addition, NMPB is also supporting cultivation of medicinal plants under "Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National AYUSH Mission (NAM)" to promote their global trade.

Discovery of new drugs under AYUSH systems of medicine

†2403. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY be pleased to state:

(a) whether policy measures and necessary measures to provide resources are being taken by the Central Government to promote the discovery of new drugs under AYUSH systems of medicine, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Central Government proposes to establish Ayurvedic Hospitals on the lines of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Research and Development in AYUSH is undertaken in accordance with the objectives and strategies outlined in the 'National Policy for Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy-2002'. Central Government has set up Research Councils and implemented a Central Scheme of Extramural Research to undertake and support research and development activities including development of drugs in Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy. 80 units of the four Research Councils are functioning in the country. Adequate resources are provided to these initiatives

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.