

Conservation of endangered medicinal plants

485. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH) be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of a recent survey by the Botanical Survey of India which found that almost 93 per cent of medicinal plants in India are endangered;

(b) if so, the reasons for neglect of endangered species of medicinal plants; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government for conservation and development of medicinal plants and especially their wild varieties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH) (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) With the increasing awareness and demand for indigenous system of medicines, demand for the medicinal plants is increasing day by day. This has resulted in indiscriminate collection of medicinal plants from wild and led to pushing some medicinal plants species in endangered category. As per Botanical Survey of India (BSI) survey out of 8,000 medicinal plants only 53 species are under threatened categories like Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable, etc.

(b) and (c) The Government is not neglecting the endangered species of medicinal plants.

To look into all matter related to medicinal plants the Government of India has set up National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) under Department of AYUSH (now Ministry of AYUSH) in year 2000. Since its inception NMPB is working towards conservation and development of medicinal plants along with promotion of medicinal plants cultivation on farmers land to meet the ever increasing demand. Presently, the NMPB, Ministry of AYUSH is implementing the following two schemes for overall development of medicinal plants sector in the country:

1. Central Sector Scheme for Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants.
2. Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National AYUSH Mission (NAM).

Under the Central Sector Scheme, conservation of medicinal plants is being carried out mainly through *in-situ* conservation by way of plantation/ resource augmentation of

species in their natural habitat and establishing Medicinal Plants Conservation and Development Areas (MPCDAs) etc., and through *ex-situ* conservation by developing herbal gardens.

In order to reduce the pressure on wild population of medicinal plants species, the Ministry of AYUSH under the NAM scheme is promoting large scale cultivation of medicinal plants on farmers land and in this regard provides financial assistance as subsidy @ 30%, 50% and 75% of cost of cultivation to farmers for cultivation of medicinal plants including endangered species.

New initiatives under NAM

486. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH) be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of new initiatives taken under the National Ayush Mission (NAM) particularly in Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh; and
- (b) whether there is any tribal sub-plan component thereunder, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH) (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The Central Government has approved and notified National AYUSH Mission (NAM) on 29.09.2014 which envisages better access to AYUSH services; strengthening of AYUSH educational institutions, facilitate the enforcement of quality control of Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani & Homoeopathy (ASU and H) drugs and sustainable availability of ASU and H raw-materials in the States/UTs including Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh during Twelfth Plan.

Under National AYUSH Mission(NAM), provision has been made for following new initiatives of the States/UTs including Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh:

- (i) Public Health outreach activity to focus on increasing awareness about AYUSH strength in managing community health problems resulting from nutritional problems, vector borne diseases etc.,
- (ii) Adoption of villages for propagating AYUSH way of life and interventions of health care through AYUSH Gram,