

(c) if so, whether the said institute has been set up; and

(d) the measures being taken by Government to promote cultivation of medicinal/ aromatic plants and herbs in the areas which are suitable for such plantations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH) (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) As per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Ministry of Commerce and Industry's information, the value figures of export of medicinal plants during the last three years are as under:

Export of Medicinal Plants

Year	Value (₹ crore)
2013-14	1171.170
2014-15	1478.622
2015-16 (Apr.-Feb.)	1493.871

To promote export of medicinal plants/herbs, the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH under its National AYUSH Scheme (NAM) is supporting large scale cultivation to produce quality medicinal plants raw material.

(b) and (c) Yes, there is provision to set up National Institute of Medicinal Plants (NIMP) under Ministry of AYUSH in the country and the matter is under consideration of this Ministry.

(d) To promote cultivation of medicinal/aromatic plants and herbs in the country, the Ministry of AYUSH under its National AYUSH Scheme (NAM) is promoting large scale cultivation of medicinal plants/herbs on farmer's land throughout the country and in this regard provide financial assistance as subsidy to the farmers for cultivation of prioritized species.

Indo-US collaboration on AYUSH medicines for cancer care

973. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH) be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has partnered with the US to collaborate on research and

development of traditional medicines for preventive and palliative cancer care, a move aimed at bringing in more global acceptability and credibility for AYUSH medicines and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the collaboration between the two countries is expected to open a huge market for AYUSH practitioners globally, 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) and (b) Yes. As a result of concerted efforts, an Indo-US workshop on Traditional Medicine with special focus on cancer was organized in New Delhi on 3-4 March, 2016. A US team comprising of experts from National Cancer Institute (NCI) took part in the two day exhaustive deliberations that have resulted into significant leads. The collaboration with USA will definitely bestow more global acceptability and credibility both on AYUSH systems of medicine and AYUSH practitioners.

Performing of abortions by AYUSH practitioners

974. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH) be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare floated an amendment to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act that would allow non-allopathic medical practitioners to perform abortions too;

(b) whether the Ministry has carried out a study to gauge if AYUSH doctors around the country are equipped to conduct abortions, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Ministry has any plan to train AYUSH practitioners to carry out medical procedures like abortions, if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH) (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, the Ministry of AYUSH is aware that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has proposed an amendment to the MTP Act 1971 that would allow non-allopathic medical practitioners to perform abortions. One of the proposed amendment in the Draft Bill aims to improve availability of safe abortion services while addressing constraint of doctors available in rural areas. It is to allow AYUSH practitioners and paramedical staff (excluding Yoga and Naturopathy) posted at Government facilitates.

(b) No specific study has been carried out by the Ministry of AYUSH. However, the