

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1724
(TO BE ANSWERED ON. 13.03.2025)

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE DIGITAL LIBRARY

1724 Dr. Dharmasthala Veerendra Heggade:

Will the Minister of **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY** be pleased to state:

- (a) the objective of establishing the ‘Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)’;
- (b) the progress made in this regard and the benefits realized therefrom;
- (c) the details of techniques transcribed so far into the TKDL database;
- (d) the number of patent applications either refused, amended or withdrawn/abandoned; and
- (e) the details of other such measures taken/ proposed to be taken to protect the ancient and traditional knowledge of the country from exploitation through biopiracy and fraudulent patents?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

- (a) The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) was established to prevent the misappropriation of Indian traditional knowledge (TK) by way of wrong grant of intellectual property rights.
- (b) to (d) A total of 515788 formulations/ techniques from the Indian Systems of Medicine and Yoga practices have been transcribed in the TKDL database so far. This includes 148456 formulations/ techniques in Ayurveda, 264196 in Unani, 88403 in Siddha and 8197 in Sowa Rigpa, and 6536 in Yoga practices. On the basis of TKDL evidences, so far, 375 patent applications have been either refused, amended or withdrawn/abandoned, thus protecting Indian traditional knowledge.
- (e) As per the national Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act 2023, prior intimation/ approval of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) is necessary before seeking any IPR based on biological material and associated knowledge obtained from India.

Under Section 3(p) of the Indian Patents Act, 1970, an invention which in effect, is traditional knowledge or which is an aggregation or duplication of known properties of a traditionally known component or components, is non-patentable. In addition, the Patents Act, 1970 provides for disclosing the source and geographical origin of the biological material in the specification, when used in an invention and conveys the information to NBA, thereby facilitating compliance.
