

Dear Readers,

There has been another attack on Alternative Systems of medicine. A Directive issued by the European Union, by the name of THPMD - Traditional Herbal Medicine Product Directive., number 2004/24/EC, imposes a new therapeutic preparation procedure for medicinal plants, which will come into force from April 30, 2011. This implies that all the medicinal remedies prepared from these medicinal plants will have to undergo this new therapeutic preparation procedure or submit expert reports or studies by 30th April 2011.

This will inhibit thousands of Europeans from using alternative medicine therapy and will leave them with no choice but to use the allopathic drugs prepared by petrochemistry. This will further strengthen the already dominant position of the allopathic pharmaceutical companies and will guarantee them profits of billions of Euros.

The same situation happened with food products in 2006 and at that time one of the European Member of Parliament had stated that "this way the same thing will happen with medicinal plants and 95 % of the medicinal plants do not pass the food grade standards of EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) as it is too strict and 90 % of the food claims are rejected by EFSA which are otherwise approved by other European countries".

If this directive is brought into action, it will threaten not only hundreds of European herbs but also plants used in TCIM, Tibetan medicine, Ayurveda and Homeopathy. There are many medicines in homeopathy which are used solely in homeopathy and grown for that matter and do not have expert reports and studies.

The studies needed for such kind of approvals will take at least a few years and there are not many companies or institutes that can do these researches. The producers of medicinal herbs are usually small scale industries who do not have the same funds as the multinationals. These kinds of researches should be carried out but there should be a Government Support Group for that. It can be done in a way that the Government discusses the issue with all alternative science experts and there is a plan devised and a time line set for doing such researches properly.

Having this Directive makes a mockery of human freedom and it is basically in the interest of the multinational companies where they will make billions of Euros profit because a few years down the line people will have no choice but to by chemical based medicines as such plant based medicines will no longer be available. It is time we all rise and speak against this Directive. There is an online support group being generated for this which will be forwarded to the European Union in the form of a petition. It's necessary as a joint effort by all alternative health sciences and their practitioners to fight against this discrimination which is actually influenced or backed by multinational pharmaceutical companies who are getting insecure by the rise of alternative medicine systems and taking means to curb them down.

Not just that this way we will also lose thousands of years of knowledge which could otherwise save millions of lives and give a better life to million others by treating them.

We dedicate this issue for support of the cause.

Dr Geeta Rani Arora

Editor



Unbolt yourself ...

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