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## Indian Government Digitises Traditional Indian Remedies

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After the long battle to get the patent on turmeric, the Indian government has digitised the traditional Indian remedies and healing systems to prevent international pharmaceutical companies from claiming patents on them.

This was informed to the parliament on Thursday.

"The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library contains details of all known Indian remedies and healing processes and the manner in which herbs and other items are used to effect this," Prithviraj Chavan, the minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said during question hour in the Rajya Sabha.

"We have translated this into five languages and put it in the public domain. We are more than willing to share this knowledge with scholars but pharmaceutical companies won't be able to claim patents on this," he added.

Referring to the prolonged legal battle on Indian turmeric, the minister said, "We learnt our lessons from the haldi (turmeric) episode."

Earlier, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research's (CSIR) fought with the US Patent and Trademark Office in preventing granting a patent for the product to a US firm.