

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI,
SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH)**

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.215
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16TH MARCH, 2021
IMPACT OF ALLOWING AYURVEDA PRACTITIONERS TO PERFORM
SURGERY**

215 SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO:

Will the Minister of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any study to analyze the impact of allowing Ayurveda practitioners to perform surgery
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the outcome of such study
- (c) whether Government has taken cognisance of the concerns raised by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) and Indian Dental Association regarding allowing Ayurveda practitioners to perform surgery and
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the steps being taken by Government to address such concerns and, if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS
AND SPORTS AND ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE (IC)
OF THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA,
YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

- (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.215* FOR 16TH MARCH, 2021**

(a) & (b) Since beginning, Shalya (General Surgery) and Shalakya (Diseases of Eye, Ear, Nose, Throat, Head, Oro-Dentistry) are independent Departments in Ayurveda colleges, performing surgical procedures. After the enactment of Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970, the Indian Medicine Central Council (Post-Graduate Education) Regulation was notified in 1979.

The regulation was amended in 1994, where it was clearly specified that, in the specialities of Shalya & Shalakya, the practical training should aim in eliciting knowledge on investigative procedures, techniques and surgical performance so that the candidate may be capable to undertake independent work in surgical procedures and their management in the respective speciality. The amendments in said Regulation were further notified in 2005, 2012 & 2016. The details of techniques & procedures related to surgical procedures were laid down in the syllabus of respective PG courses issued by CCIM. The amendment Regulation, 2020, only specifies the 58 surgical procedures and issued as a clarification of the Regulation, 2016.

(c) & (d) To clarify the doubts, a detail FAQ's was issued by the Ministry through PIB on dated 22nd November, 2020, which is annexed.

Clarifications with respect to the Indian Medicine Central Council (Post Graduate Ayurveda Education) Amendment Regulations, 2020

Posted On: 22 NOV 2020 3:56PM by PIB Delhi

Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM), the statutory body that regulates the Indian Medical systems of Ayurveda, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Unani Medicine issued a notification on 20th November 2020 to streamline some of the provisions of the regulations concerning Post Graduate Ayurveda Education by adding clarity and definition to the same.

It has come to the notice of the Ministry of AYUSH that some mis-reported and incorrectly interpreted versions of the above notification have surfaced in some media platforms, leading to mis-information about the nature and purpose of the said notification. To lay to rest the apprehensions arising out of such incorrect interpretations, the Ministry is now issuing the following clarifications answering the questions that have been raised in this matter:

1. What does the notification called the Indian Medicine Central Council (Post Graduate Ayurveda Education) Amendment Regulations, 2020 deal with?

The notification relates to the Shalya and Shalakya streams of Post Graduate Education in Ayurveda. The notification specifies (in clearer terms than the earlier notification on the subject) a total of 58 surgical procedures that PG scholars of these streams (cumulatively) need to be practically trained in so as to enable them to independently perform the said activities after completion of their PG Degree. The notification is specific to these specified surgical procedures and does not allow Shalya and Shalakya Post Graduates to take up any other types of surgery.

2. Does the said notification signify a policy shift in the matter of practice of surgical procedures by practitioners of Ayurveda?

No, this notification is a clarification of the relevant provisions in the previously existing regulations of 2016. Since beginning, Shalya and Shalakya are independent Departments in Ayurveda colleges, performing such surgical procedures. While the notification of 2016 stipulated that the students shall undergo training of investigative procedures, techniques and surgical performance of procedures and management in the respective specialty, the details of these techniques, procedures and surgical performance were laid down in the syllabus of respective PG courses issued by CCIM, and not the regulation *per se*. The present clarification was issued in overall public interest by CCIM by bringing the said details into the regulation. Hence this does not signify any policy shift.

3. Why is there a controversy around the use of modern terminology in the said notification?

The Ministry has not received any comments or objections about the use of modern terminology in the said notification, and is hence not aware of any such controversy.

It is, however, clarified that all scientific advances including standardized terminologies are inheritances of the entire mankind. No individual or group has monopoly over these terminologies. The modern terminologies in the field of medicine, are not modern from a temporal perspective, but are derived substantially from ancient languages like Greek, Latin and even Sanskrit, and later languages like Arabic. Evolution of terminologies is a dynamic and inclusive process. Modern medical terms and terminology facilitates effective communication and correspondence not just among physicians, but also to other stake-holders including the public. In the instant notification, modern terms are adopted as per requirement to ensure that the same is understood widely in the medical profession, in the stake-holding disciplines like the medico-legal, health IT etc., as well as by the members of the public.

4. Does the use of modern terminology in the said notification amount to “mixing” of Ayurveda with Conventional (Modern) Medicine?

Not at all. The purpose of all modern scientific terminology is to facilitate effective communication and correspondence among the different stake-holders. The stake-holders of the instant notification include not just the Ayurveda practitioners but also professionals of other stake-holding disciplines like the medico-legal, health IT, insurance etc., as well as the members of the public. Hence the use of modern terminology was required. The question of “mixing” of Ayurveda with Conventional (Modern) Medicine does not arise here as CCIM is deeply committed to maintaining the authenticity of Indian systems of medicine, and is against any such “mixing”.
