

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AYUSH**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.643
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13TH DECEMBER, 2022**

STANDARDISATION OF QUALITY OF AYURVEDIC MEDICINES

643. DR. SUDHANSHU TRIVEDI:

Will the Minister of **AYUSH** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that, during the first wave of COVID-19 pandemic in the country, the Union Government officially accepted and suggested the use of Homoeopathic and Ayurvedic medicines; and
- (b) the measures being taken by Government for standardisation of the quality of Ayurvedic medicines as some times this becomes the biggest impediment in using them particularly in Ras and Bhasma?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF AYUSH
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)**

(a) Yes Sir. The steps taken by Ministry of Ayush in the mitigation and management of COVID-19 through Ayurveda and Homoeopathy systems of medicines are at **Annexure-I**. Pharmacopeia Commission of Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H), a subordinate office of Ministry of Ayush published the standalone formulary specifications and Pharmacopoeial monographs of Ayush Kwath Curna/ Ayush Kutiner Curnam/Ayush Sufuf-e Joshanda for Ayurvedic, Siddha, Unani medicine respectively.

(b) Ministry of Ayush has setup Pharmacopeia Commission of Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H), Ghaziabad to lay down Pharmacopoeial Quality Standards and Formulary specifications for Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani & Homoeopathy (ASU&H) drugs, which serve as official compendia for ascertaining the identity, purity and strength of the drugs included therein and the standards mentioned therein are mandatory. Till date, 665 quality standards [in

Ayurvedic Pharmacopeia of India (API) Part I- Vol. I to X] on raw materials (Single Drugs of plant/animal/Mineral/metal origin), 203 Pharmacopoeial monographs (in API Part II- Vol. I to IV and 01 standalone pharmacopoeial standards) and also 1036 Formulary specifications [in API Part I-IV, 01 standalone formulary specification] had been published in Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeias/Formularies. In addition to this, supporting documents in the form of Macro-Microscopic & TLC Atlas on 351 single drugs incorporated in API also published. The said pharmacopoeial monographs includes 41 quality standards on various raw materials of mineral/metal origin (in API Part I, Vol. VII & Vol. X), and also various formulary specifications of Ayurvedic medicines containing Ras and Bhasmas as an ingredient are included under dosage forms like Vatis, Bhasmas, Ras, Kupipakwa Rasayana, Lauh Mandoor etc. have been prescribed in different parts of Ayurvedic Formulary of India (AFI).

Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (C.C.R.A.S.) under Ministry of Ayush has also developed quality parameters and generated evidence on safety of 14 Bhasma & Rasoushadhi and published in the form of technical reports.

Annexure-I

1. Ministry of Ayush issued an advisory on how to protect yourself from COVID and how to stay healthy. In the advisory, in addition to maintaining hygiene like hand wash, use of mask etc. simple home remedies were also suggested for people.
2. A letter to all Chief Secretaries of States / Union territories was sent from the Ministry with more specific suggestions on augmentation of General Immunity of people and about possible AYUSH intervention wherever required in coordination with Health departments of the States/UTs.
3. Ministry has sent a D.O. letter to Principal's of all Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy (ASU&H) colleges (approximately 727 colleges) for utilization of available infrastructure facilities like Hospital (IPD & OPD), pathology laboratory, ICU and manpower including medical & Paramedical Staff to combat with the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, they were requested to offer their services to local health authorities for utilization of the available facilities by them as per the situation arises. Accordingly, the various AYUSH institutes hospital were utilized by State Governments and designated as quarantine centre, isolation centre, Covid care centre and Covid health centre.
4. Ministry of Ayush recommends self-care guidelines for preventive health measures and boosting immunity.
 - General Measures
 - Ayurvedic Immunity Promoting Measures
 - Simple Ayurvedic Procedures
 - During dry cough/sore throat
5. The Ministry of Ayush had launched a three-month campaign on "Ayush for Immunity", through webinar and also publishing campaign bulletin on AYUSH for Immunity. More than 50 thousand people participated in the Webinar.
6. Ministry of Ayush has formed an Inter-disciplinary AYUSH R&D Task Force chaired by Prof. Bhushan Patwardhan and having representation from scientists including Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Ayush Institutions. The Interdisciplinary AYUSH Research and Development Task Force has formulated and designed clinical research protocols for prophylactic studies and add-on interventions in COVID-19 positive cases through thorough review and consultative process of experts of high repute from different organizations across the country for studying four different interventions viz. *Ashwagandha*, *Yashtimadhu*, *Guduchi* + *Pippali* and a poly herbal formulation (AYUSH-64).

7. Ministry of Ayush issued Gazette notification for undertaking research on COVID-19 through Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homeopathy Systems including prophylactic measures, intervention during the quarantine, asymptomatic and symptomatic cases of COVID-19, Public Health Research, Survey, Lab Based Research etc. to generate evidence.

Ministry of Ayush has also launched interdisciplinary studies involving AYUSH interventions for COVID-19 based on recommendations of Task force. Under various research organizations and National Institutes under Ministry of Ayush, 150 research studies in the country are being conducted on AYUSH interventions.

8. Guidelines for Registered Practitioners of respective system of Ayush including Ayurveda & Homoeopathy, have been prepared by Director Generals of Research Councils and Directors of National Institutes with their team of experts and same is vetted by the Interdisciplinary AYUSH Research and Development Task Force of Ministry of Ayush. These guidelines are made available in public domain for the benefit of registered AYUSH practitioners including Ayurveda & Homoeopathy to help in the management of COVID 19 pandemic uniformly.
9. Government of India has also released **“National Clinical Management Protocol based on Ayurveda and Yoga for management of COVID-19”** prepared by National Task force.
10. Ministry of Ayush has also released Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha preventive measures for selfcare during COVID-19 and Guidelines for Ayush Practitioners for COVID-19 Patients in Home Isolation.
11. During COVID-19 pandemic, AYUSH-64 and Kabasura Kudineer has emerged as a ray of hope for the patients of mild and moderate COVID-19 infection. The scientists of reputed research institutions of the country have found that AYUSH 64, a poly herbal formulation developed by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Ministry of Ayush is useful in the treatment of asymptomatic, mild and moderate COVID-19 infection as an adjunct to standard care.
12. In order to provide maximum benefit of Ayush systems of medicine, a Nation-wide campaign for distribution of AYUSH-64 and Kabasura Kudineer through 86 clinical units of Research Councils and National Institute under Ministry of Ayush across the country, has been launched.
13. Ministry of Ayush has also issued advisory for Ayush practitioners on ethical practices during COVID- 19 pandemic.
14. Ministry of Ayush has released Home care guidelines for children and Advisory for AYUSH Practitioners about prophylactic care in Children during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

15. Ministry of Ayush has released information for Ayurveda Practitioners for Prophylactic, Symptomatic Management of suspected and diagnosed cases of Mucormycosis.
16. Ministry of Ayush has also released Ayush recommendations for the public on holistic health and well-being Preventive measures and care during COVID-19 & LONG COVID-19.
17. Ministry of Ayush has released guidelines for Ayurveda Practitioners for COVID-19 patients in Home Isolation and Ayurveda Preventive Measures for self care during COVID-19 Pandemic.
18. Ministry of Ayush has released an advisory on Ayush interventions for Prophylaxis & Management of COVID-19 and Ayush guidelines for COVID-19 cases for care givers.