

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AYUSH**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2099
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8TH AUGUST, 2023**

“ETHNOMEDICAL PRACTICES”

2099 SHRI RAKESH SINHA:

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

- (a) whether the traditional knowledge of the tribal traditional healers constitutes an important area in the field of medicines and disease;
- (b) the steps taken to re-examine and reorient ethnomedical practices of the tribal community;
- (c) whether Government has initiated the process to cater such age old community based knowledge of healing; and
- (d) whether Government has initiated to prepare the list of such healers and established a lab for healing practices?

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

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Considering the importance of traditional knowledge of Tribal Traditional healers, the Central Council of Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), an autonomous organization under Ministry of Ayush, is actively involved in documenting and validating the traditional practices and herbal formulations by the following programs viz.

- i. Through Medico Ethno-Botanical Survey (MEBS) conducting research on the exploration of medicinal plants, documentation, and validation of Local Health Traditions through its 10 peripheral Institutes.
- ii. Executing Tribal Health Care Research Programme (THCRP) in 14 States through its peripheral units. Local Health Traditions (LHTs) and Folklore practices among Tribal Population have also been documented.

Further, Ministry of Ayush has established North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda & Folk Medicine Research (NEIAFMR), Pasighat with an aim to documenting & validating the practices of traditional healers.

Sowa-Rigpa system of medicine practices by the tribal communities of Himalayan regions has also been recognized and a National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa has been established at Leh-Ladakh.

(d) NEIAFMR has published a book on Certified Traditional Healers of North East India. The book is available in the Institute's website and the same is available at the link provided below:

<https://neiafmr.org.in/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Certified-Traditional-Healers-of-North-Eastern-India.pdf>
