

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AYUSH**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1602  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2024**

**Promotion of Siddha system of medicine**

1602 **Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla:**

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government to promote and preserve the Siddha system of medicine, an ancient and integral part of healthcare tradition of the country;
- (b) whether the Ministry has plans to include Siddha alongside other AYUSH systems in Government initiatives, research and academic curricula;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the measures being taken to ensure recognition and support for Siddha practitioners?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF AYUSH  
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a): Ministry of Ayush has established the autonomous bodies, National Institute of Siddha (NIS), Chennai and Central Council for Research in Siddha (CCRS) to promote and preserve Siddha system of medicine in the country.

National Institute of Siddha (NIS) is promoting Siddha system of medicine by conducting Under Graduate course, Post Graduate course and Ph.D course in Siddha and also by providing treatment in Siddha System of medicine to the patients reporting to the attached hospital. The Institute also participates in various programmes like Arogya Fair etc., to promote Siddha system of medicine. The Institute also harnesses social media and virtual media for effective propagation of Siddha system of medicine.

Central Council for Research in Siddha (CCRS) is an apex body for conducting research in Siddha system of medicine and provides health care facilities for various diseases through its nine (9) peripheral institutes / units of CCRS across the country. Steps taken to promote Siddha system of medicine through CCRS are as follows:

- i. The research programme of CCRS mainly focuses on clinical research including safety and efficacy studies of Siddha drugs, validation of the fundamental principles, drug standardization and quality control, survey and cultivation of medicinal plants and literary research.
- ii. CCRS has entered into MoU with premier medical institutions like Government Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS), Noida, All India Institute of Ayurveda, National Institution of Nutrition – ICMR for carrying out collaborative studies.
- iii. Specialized treatments are being provided to the public through Non- communicable diseases OPD, Geriatric OPD, Reproductive and Child health care OPD, Varmam, Thokkanam, Bone setting and Yogam OPD.
- iv. CCRS has been actively conducting various seminars / workshops / conferences to disseminate the Siddha system of medicine for the beneficial of the general public.
- v. Health awareness campaigns related to various diseases are being conducted at all institutes / units for the benefit of the public.
- vi. In Arogya Melas / exhibition, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials are being distributed related to various disease conditions and its management through Siddha system of medicine.
- vii. CCRS has initiated many programs for popularizing Siddha medicine among the general public through print media in national newspaper's, audio jingle's, video documentary film's and utilizing the Social Media platform's (You tube, Twitter and Facebook) to reach the common man.
- viii. Collection, transcription, and publication of old palm leaf Siddha manuscripts / old literatures and digitization along with Translation of Siddha literatures in Indian/foreign languages has been initiated by CCRS to preserve the Siddha system of medicine.
- ix. Literary Research & Documentation Department (LR&DD) functioning under CCRS embraces collection of old Palm leaf manuscripts, old unpublished handwritten manuscripts, and rare books. Exploration, transcription, translation, annotation, publishing and thereby preserving the Siddha Classical Literatures would definitely pave the way for usage for academic, clinical and research purpose.

Ministry of Ayush has established the statutory body, National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) for maintaining the academic regulations and clinical practice of Indian System of Medicine including Siddha system of medicine. NCISM is promoting and preserving Siddha system of medicine through 17 Siddha educational Institutions with attached teaching hospitals. Total 5030 registered Siddha practitioners are there across the country.

Ministry of Ayush has established its subordinate office, Pharmacopeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homeopathy (PCIM&H) for laying down the formulary specifications and Pharmacopoeial Standards for Indian Medicine including Siddha & Homeopathy drugs. So far, PCIM&H has published 139 quality standards on raw materials used in Siddha system of Medicine.

Ministry of Ayush is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Ayush Mission (NAM) through State/UT Governments and supporting their efforts for overall development & promotion of Ayush systems of medicine including Siddha system of medicine in the country by providing financial assistance under different activities against their proposals received through State Annual Action Plans (SAAPS) as per the provisions of NAM guidelines. The NAM Inter alia makes provision for following activities:

- i. Operationalization of Ayush Health & Wellness Centres (AHWCs) now renamed as Ayushman Arogya Mandir (Ayush) including Siddha system of medicine.
- ii. Co-location of Ayush facilities at Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs) and District Hospitals (DHs) including Siddha system of medicine
- iii. Upgradation of existing standalone Government Ayush Hospitals including Siddha system of medicine
- iv. Upgradation of existing Government/Panchayat/Government aided Ayush Dispensaries/ Construction of building for existing Ayush Dispensary including Siddha system of medicine (Rented/dilapidated accommodation) /Construction of building to establish new Ayush Dispensary
- v. Setting up of 10/30/50 bedded integrated Ayush Hospitals including Siddha system of medicine
- vi. Supply of essential drugs to Government Ayush Hospitals, Government Dispensaries and Government/Government aided Teaching Institutional Ayush Hospitals including Siddha system of medicine
- vii. Ayush Public Health Programs including Siddha system of medicine
- viii. Establishment of new Ayush colleges in the States where availability of AYUSH teaching institutions is inadequate in Government Sector including Siddha system of medicine.
- ix. Infrastructural development of Ayush Under-Graduate Institutions and Ayush Post-Graduate Institutions/add on Post-Graduate/ Pharmacy/Para-Medical Courses including Siddha system of medicine.

Ministry of Ayush is also implementing the Central Sector Scheme for Promotion of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) in Ayush to create awareness regarding Ayush Systems of Medicine including Siddha system of medicine. This Scheme aims to reach out to all sections of the population across the country. Under this Scheme, Ministry of Ayush observes the 'Siddha Day' every year through CCRS & NIS, with the aim to promote Siddha System of Medicine to disseminate to the Siddha fraternities, Non-Siddha scientists and the public by organizing numerous scientific conferences / workshops, Health care awareness campaigns, Scientific competitions among the students etc.

(b) & (c): Ministry of Ayush has already included Siddha system of medicine alongside with other AYUSH systems in Government initiatives, research and academic curricula. The details are mentioned at part (a) of the answer.

(d): Under the provisions of NCISM Act 2020, NCISM Promotes quality education; developed Competency based Dynamic Curriculum at all levels to produce high quality and competent medical professionals; enforces high ethical standard in all aspects of medical services;

encourages medical professionals to adopt latest medical research in their work and to contribute to research in Indian System of Medicine including Siddha system of medicine.

Ministry of Ayush supports Ayush Teaching & Research Institutions through a Central Sector Scheme namely AYURGYAN by providing financial assistance for conduction of research and capacity building programmes, workshops, trainings to AYUSH Practitioners including Siddha.

CCRS also conducts Continuous Medical Education (CME) programmes, workshops, and hands-on trainings to Siddha practitioners. Every year CCRS provides mini project grants to Under Graduate and Post Graduate students to encourage the research temper among Siddha students.

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