

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AYUSH**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1607  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th December 2024**

**"AYURVEDA IN REDUCING OUT-OF-POCKET MEDICAL EXPENSES"**

**1607 SHRI SANJEEV ARORA:**

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

- (a) in what manner Ayurveda contributes for reducing out-of-pocket medical expenses in the country;
- (b) the initiatives undertaken by the Ministry to increase the popularity of Ayurveda; and
- (c) the specialties in which Ayurveda has proven to be particularly successful?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) Ayurveda is one of the oldest systems of medicine with two prime objectives viz. promotion & preservation of health and treatment of a disease in suffering patients. Ayurveda plays a significant role in reducing out-of-pocket medical expenses in the country through its emphasis on preventive healthcare, affordable treatment options, and holistic approaches to disease management. Following Ayurveda based lifestyle like Dincharya (daily routines), Ritucharya (seasonal regimes), which manifest a healthy lifestyle, the chances of disease manifestation in individuals may decrease significantly. Further, National Institutes like All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA), Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA), North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda & Homoeopathy (NEIAH), North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda & Folk Medicine Research (NEIAFMR) and Research Council like Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) along with its peripheral institutes under Ministry of Ayush offers OPD and IPD services to the patients. These Ayurveda institutes organise specialty and general health camps, offering free consultations, check-ups and Ayurveda medicines to the public. Ministry of Ayush is also implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Ayush Mission through State/UT Govts by providing them financial assistance, one of the objectives of which is to establish a holistic wellness model through Ayushman Aarogya

Mandir focusing on preventive and primitive health care based on Ayush principles and practices, to reduce the disease burden and out of pocket expenditure.

- (b) To popularize the Indian Medicine System under Ayush including Ayurveda, Ministry of Ayush is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme National Ayush Mission (NAM) and Central Sector Schemes providing financial assistance for promotion and popularisation of Ayush systems of medicine at National and International level namely, Ayush Oushadhi Gunavatta evam Utpadan Samvardhan Yojana (AOGUSY), Promotion of International Cooperation (IC), Promotion of Information, Education and Communication (IEC), Scheme for Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants (CDSMMP), Ayurswashaya Yojana and Ayurgyan.

Centrally Sponsored Scheme National Ayush Mission (NAM) is implemented through State/UT Governments and supporting their efforts for overall development and promotion of Ayush system of medicines by providing financial assistance to them under different activities as per the provision of NAM guidelines against their submitted State Annual Action Plans (SAAP). The Mission inter-alia makes provision for the following activities including medical infrastructure: -

- (i) Operationalization of Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM)- Ayush
- (ii) Co-location of Ayush facilities Ayurveda at Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs) and District Hospitals (DHs)
- (iii) Upgradation of existing standalone Government Ayush Hospitals
- (iv) Upgradation of existing Government/Panchayat/Government aided Ayush Dispensaries/Construction of building for existing Ayush Dispensary (Rented/dilapidated accommodation)/Construction of building to establish new Ayush Dispensary in the area where there are no Ayush facilities available
- (v) Setting up of 10/30/50 bedded integrated Ayush Hospitals
- (vi) Supply of essential drugs to Government Ayush Hospitals, Government Dispensaries and Government/Government aided Teaching Institutional Ayush Hospitals
- (vii) Establishment of new Ayush colleges in the States where availability of Ayush teaching institutions is inadequate in Government Sector
- (viii) Infrastructural development of Ayush Under-Graduate Institutions
- (ix) Infrastructural development of Ayush Post-Graduate Institutions/ add on PG/ Pharmacy /Para-Medical Courses

(x) Ayush Public Health Programs.

As per the proposals received from the State/UT Governments through SAAPs under NAM, Ministry of Ayush has released an amount of Rs. 4534.28 Crores from the year 2014-15 to 2023-24. After implementation of NAM Scheme, the scale of achievement for development and popularisation of Ayush system of medicine in the States/UTs has increased significantly. Accordingly, budget allocation of NAM enhanced gradually from Rs. 75.28 Crore (in 2014-15) to Rs.1200.00 Crore (in 2024-25) for implementation of different activities of NAM Scheme through States/UTs. Under NAM, consolidated funds are being released to the State/UT Governments for development and promotion of different Ayush systems and stream-wise funds are not being released.

Major activities supported under NAM for development, promotion and popularization of Ayush System of Medicine from 2014-15 to 2023-24 are as follows:

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- (i) 167 units supported for setting up of Integrated Ayush hospitals
- (ii) 416 Ayush Hospitals and 5036 Ayush dispensaries have been supported for Up-gradation of infrastructure and other facilities
- (iii) 2322 PHCs, 715 CHCs and 314 DHs have been supported under co-location for recurring assistance of medicines and contingency on an average in each year
- (iv) 996 Ayush Hospitals and 12405 Ayush dispensaries have been supported for supply of essential Ayush medicines on an average in each year.
- (v) 16 units supported for establishment of New Ayush Educational Institutions.
- (vi) 76 Under-Graduate and 36 Post-Graduate Ayush Educational Institutes have been supported for Upgradation of infrastructure, Library and other things.
- (vii) 1055 Ayush Gram have been supported.
- (viii) 12500 Ayushman Arogya Mandir (Ayush) have been approved.

A Central Sector Scheme for Promotion of International Co-operation launched to popularize the Indian Medicine System in response the growing global popularity of traditional medicine under Ayurveda, Yoga and other Indian traditional systems of medicine world over. This necessitated generating awareness about Ayush in international arena by providing authentic information about the system through conducting international conferences on Ayush system, deputing the system experts to

different countries, establishing Ayush information cells in different countries etc. Therefore, the International Co-operation Scheme was implemented during the IX, X, XI and XII Plan to support emerging needs for promotion of Ayush at International level. The components of the Scheme are as follows: -

- (i) International Exchange of Experts & Officers,
- (ii) Incentive to drug manufacturers, entrepreneurs, Ayush institutions, Hospitals etc for international propagation of Ayush by participating in international exhibitions, trade fairs, and road shows etc. and registration of Ayush products (Market Authorisation) at regulatory bodies of different countries such as USFDA/ EMEA/ UK-MHRA/ NHPD/ TGA etc. for exports,
- (iii) Support for International Market Development and Ayush promotion –related activities,
- (iv) Translation and Publication of Ayush Literature/books in foreign languages,
- (v) International Fellowship/Scholarship Programme for foreign nationals for undertaking Ayush courses in premier institutions in India.
- (vi) Setting up and strengthening of Export Promotion Council for Products and Services.

The Ministry is implementing the Central Sector Scheme for Promotion of Information Education and Communication (IEC) in Ayush to create awareness regarding Ayush Systems of Medicine. This aims to reach out to all sections of the population across the country. This scheme provides assistance for organizing National/State Arogya Fairs, Yoga Fests/Utsavs, Ayurveda Parvs, etc. The Ministry also undertakes Multi-Media, Print Media Campaigns for creating awareness about Ayush System.

The Ministry is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Ayurwashya Yojana since FY 2021-22. The Scheme has 02 components viz. (i) Ayush and Public Health (ii) Centre of Excellence (CoE). The objectives of Ayush and Public Health Component of Ayurwashya Yojana are as follows: -

- To promote Ayush intervention for community health care.
- To demonstrate advantages of Ayush health care in public health.
- To support for implementing Sustainable Development Goal-2 (SDG2) and Sustainable Development Goal -3 (SDG 3) through integrating Ayush system.

- Documentation of the efficacy of Ayush systems through Ayush interventions in various public health issues which can be taken up in larger scale for implementation in national health programmes.

Ministry of Ayush is implementing Central Sector Scheme for Ayush Oushadhi Gunavatta evam Utpadan Samvardhan Yojana (AOGUSY) for the year 2021-2026 with financial outlay of Rs. 122 Crores whose one of the objectives is to encourage building up synergies, collaborations and convergent approaches for promoting standards and quality of Ayush drugs & materials.

Also, Ayurveda Day is being celebrated every year on the day of Dhanwantri Jayanti (Dhanteras) notified by the Ministry of Ayush vide gazette notification dated 01.06.2017. The day is celebrated through undertaking various activities throughout the country for promotion, propagation and popularization of Ayurveda.

Further, the following 12 National Institutes and 05 Research Councils under Ministry of Ayush are engaged in co-ordinating, formulating, developing, promoting and popularizing Ayush system of healthcare:

- (i) All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi
- (ii) National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur
- (iii) Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth, Delhi
- (iv) National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune
- (v) North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda & Homoeopathy, Shillong
- (vi) North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda and Folk Medicine Research, Pasighat
- (vii) National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bengaluru
- (viii) Institute of Teaching & Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar
- (ix) National Institute of Siddha, Chennai
- (x) National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata
- (xi) Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, New Delhi
- (xii) National Institute Of Sowa Rigpa (NISR), Leh
- (xiii) Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)
- (xiv) Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy (CCRYN)
- (xv) Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM)
- (xvi) Central Council for Research in Siddha (CCRS)

(xvii) Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH)

02 Statutory Bodies under Ministry of Ayush i.e., National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) and National Commission for Homoeopathy (NCH) are working as a regulatory commission for promotion of Ayush education through which the Ayush System of Colleges with attached hospitals are carrying out the activities related to Medical Education, Research, Healthcare, Public-health across the country.

Ayush institutions of different streams under Ministry of Ayush popularize Indian Medicine System under Ayush among masses through their IEC activities using electronic and print media for common people in English, Hindi, and regional languages, which are widely distributed through National/State level Arogya melas, Health camps, exhibitions, expos. Ministry of Ayush is also digitally promoting the Ayush System of Medicine on its various Social Media Platforms i.e. Facebook, Twitter, YouTube etc.

Besides the school health programmes and clinical mobile research programmes, other outreach programs viz. Schedule Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) Research Program, Tribal Health Care Research Program (THCRP), etc., are also being carried out for the promotion and popularity of Indian Medicine System under Ayush. Under this programme, villages having SC/ST population have been selected to create awareness for preventive aspects of different diseases and to provide treatment to the patients in various parts of the country.

Ministry of Ayush also propagates Indian System of Medicine under Ayush through its various institutions all across the country by participating in poshan maha abhiyan & the activities related to Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, participation in seminars/ workshops / conferences/ school health check-ups, providing healthcare services through the OPDs/IPDs of the units and treatment centres of Ayush, publishing peer-reviewed research journals/ newsletters/ publishing bulletin in different streams which are accessible online and are available to international readers as well to enable dissemination of the outcomes of research among the public also contributes for promotion & popularization of Indian Medicine System under Ayush.

The website of the Ministry of Ayush and the Autonomous bodies/ Statutory bodies/ Regulatory bodies etc under Ministry of Ayush are also embodied with information on Indian System of Medicine under Ayush and hyperlinked with other important websites that provide information for wider utility.

- (c) Ayurveda, the traditional Indian System of Medicine, has demonstrated significant effectiveness across various specialties, particularly in managing chronic disease conditions and lifestyle-related disorders. Central Council of Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), the apex body for the formulation, coordination and development of research in Ayurveda has generated the evidence of safety and efficacy in various medical conditions as a standalone management and an add-on to standard care through multiple intra-mural and collaborative research projects.

Further evidence based research data of Ayush Systems including Ayurveda is available in the exclusive portal namely Ayush Research portal (<https://ayushportal.nic.in/>). More than 30920 research publications in Ayurveda including clinical, pre-clinical, drug research and fundamental research are available in the portal.

National Institutes under the Ministry of Ayush such as All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) are offering specialty clinics for Diabetes and Metabolic disorders, Musculoskeletal and Neurodegenerative disorders, Auto immune diseases, Cardio-respiratory diseases, Skin care treatment, Manas roga chikitsa and Mental health, Ksharkarma evum Anushastra chikitsa, Bal roga, Panchakarma, Shalaky Chikitsa, Shalya Chikitsa, infertility treatment, PCOD and Menopause, Antenatal Care, Gynecological and Obstetrics treatment, Family planning etc.

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