

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AYUSH**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 161
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2025**

Inclusion of AYUSH in public health emergency preparedness

161 Shri Sandeep Kumar Pathak:

Will the Minister of Ayush be pleased to state:

- (a) the institutional measures taken by the Ministry to ensure the integration of traditional medicine systems in national public health emergency preparedness frameworks given the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (b) whether, despite the promotion of AYUSH-based immunity guidelines during the pandemic, institutional role of the Ministry in outbreak management and coordinated response remained limited; and
- (c) whether the Ministry has signed any protocols with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to outline AYUSH's contributions during future health emergencies?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Ayush had undertaken several institutional measures to ensure the effective integration of traditional medicine systems into national public health emergency frameworks. Building on the successful measures undertaken during the COVID-19 crisis, Ministry of Ayush continues to offer scalable, preventive, and integrative health solutions to ensure national preparedness and holistic well-being. The steps taken by Ministry of Ayush for the mitigation of COVID-19 pandemic are as follows –

- i. The Ministry, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, released the National Clinical Management Protocol for COVID-19 based on Ayurveda and Yoga. It provided therapeutic guidance for the management of asymptomatic and mild cases.

- ii. Two polyherbal formulations, AYUSH-64 (Ayurveda, developed by CCRAS) and Kabasura Kudineer (Siddha) were evaluated for efficacy and included in the NCMP for mild-to-moderate COVID-19 cases.
- iii. Updated guidelines were issued for Ayush practitioners for emerging infections, and post-COVID fatigue. Recognizing the long-term impacts of COVID-19, the Ministry has also developed home care protocols & advisories for children and continues to support recovery and resilience through Ayush-based wellness interventions.
- iv. The Ministry continues to promote immunity-enhancing Ayush practices, including Ayush formulations, Yoga, meditation, and holistic dietary guidance. These interventions, which gained wide public acceptance during the COVID-19 pandemic, have demonstrated efficacy in enhancing host resilience and preventive health.
- v. During COVID-19, Ayush hospitals and institutes were repurposed as quarantine and COVID care centers, demonstrating their flexibility in emergency response. This experience has further strengthened efforts to formally integrate Ayush facilities into public health emergency plans.
- vi. Over 83,000 Ayush professionals were trained via the iGOT platform during the pandemic. This trained cadre can act as a deployable public health workforce, with continuous skill upgradation through institutional mechanisms.
- vii. Ayush services have been integrated into the e-Sanjeevani Telemedicine platform and are now aligned with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), enabling real-time remote consultations and digital tracking during health emergencies.
- viii. The Ministry is focusing on long-term integrative research in managing post-viral syndromes, respiratory infections, strengthening host immunity and other diseases of national importance. More than 150 studies were conducted during COVID-19, setting a foundation for future evidence-based integration.
- ix. National campaigns such as *Ayush for Immunity* demonstrated the potential of mass outreach. Such campaigns in collaboration with State Governments and media can reinforce preventive health behaviours.
- x. The Ministry of Ayush is working with the Ministry of Health and State Governments to integrate Ayush systems formally into public health emergency preparedness frameworks, especially community-level interventions.
- xi. Post-COVID, there is greater focus on using Ayush systems to address lifestyle disorders and chronic disease prevention, aligning with the broader goals of public health resilience and sustainable wellness.

(c) Yes, the Ministry of Ayush is actively collaborating with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) to institutionalize the role of Ayush systems in national public health preparedness. Following the collaborative efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as the release of the National Clinical Management Protocol for COVID-19 based on Ayurveda and Yoga, and the deployment of Ayush infrastructure and trained personnel, ongoing efforts to formalize convergence in health emergencies have been undertaken.

Key institutional mechanisms supporting this collaboration includes:

- Establishment of Ayush Vertical in the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS): A dedicated Ayush vertical has been established jointly by the Ministry of Ayush and MoHFW within DGHS. This vertical functions as an institutional mechanism for joint planning, monitoring, and supervision of Ayush-specific public health programs. It offers technical support for integration into national healthcare and emergency response strategies.
- Participation in the National One Health Mission: Ayush systems are also contributing as per their strengths to the National One Health Mission, particularly in areas such as Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), pandemic preparedness and capacity building of the Ayush healthcare institutions.
