GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH)

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 132 TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND FEBRUARY, 2018

AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND MALAYSIA

132. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH: SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT:

Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has signed an agreement with Malaysia in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine;
- (b) if so, the details and main features thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that there are some issues regarding Registration of AYUSH practitioners and products in Malaysia; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to resolve the issue?

ANSWER THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

- (a) & (b): Yes. The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Malaysia has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine on 27.10.2010. The salient features of the MoU are as follows:
 - i. Cooperation for the promotion of traditional medicine including the regulation for teaching, practice, drugs and drugless therapies of Traditional Systems of Medicine.
 - ii. Exchanging experts for training of practitioners, paramedics, scientists, teachers and students in Traditional Systems of Medicine.
 - iii. Accommodating interested practitioners, paramedics and students in institutions for educational and training programmes on Traditional Medicine
 - iv. Mutual recognition of Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Pharmacopeia of Indian and the Malaysian Herbal Pharmacopoeia
 - v. Setting up of Academic Chairs on Traditional Systems of Medicine.

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(c) & (d): As per the Traditional & Complimentary Medicine (T&CM) Act 2016 of Govt. of Malaysia, the local or foreign practitioners who intend to practice in Malaysia in the recognized practice areas will be needed to be registered with the T&CM Council of the Malaysia. Section 24(1) of the T&CM Act 2016 speaks that foreign practitioners who wish to obtain a temporary practicing certificate from the T&CM Council of Malaysia must be registered practitioners in their respective countries.

There were potential difficulties in registering the therapists practicing traditional systems of Indian medicine in Malaysia with Traditional and Complementary Medicine (T & CM) Council in Malaysia as therapists are not required to register with any regulatory authority in India.

In order to resolve the issue, a bilateral meeting between two countries was held on 27 December, 2016 at Malaysia and Ministry of AYUSH agreed to provide two reference documents to the T&CMD which are (1) A list of the institutions certified by Quality Council of India (QCI) to train Panchkarma or AYUSH therapists and (2) the minimum requirements for AYUSH therapists who wish to enter Government Service in India.

The details of minimum requirements for AYUSH therapists who wish to enter Government Service in India have already been provided to Malaysian side. Further, it has also been informed to Malaysian side that QCI has not yet undertaken the certification of institutes for the training of AYUSH therapists.

Regarding the registration of AYUSH practitioner, it was clarified to the Malaysian side that the Central registration with CCIM is not compulsory in India and the T& CM Council, Malaysia need not rely on the central register to verify AYUSH practitioners.

The National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA) of Malaysia is exploring a pathway to register traditional medicine products based on philosophy of use. In order to facilitate this process Ministry of AYUSH has provided a complete set of Ayurveda Formulary of India and a copy of Good Clinical Practice to Malaysian side.
