

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.758
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD JULY, 2021**

GLOBAL PANDEMIC COVID-19

**758. SHRI MOHAN MANDAVI:
SHRI CHUNNI LAL SAHU:**

Will the Minister of AYUSH be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent to which success has been achieved so far in finding a cure for the 'COVID-19' pandemic with the effective measures and medicines of AYUSH;
- (b) whether any steps has been taken by the Ministry to take care of people during COVID-19; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA,
YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY
(DR. MUNJPARA MAHENDRABHAI)**

- (a) i. The scientists of reputed research institutions of the country have found that AYUSH-64, a polyherbal formulation developed by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Ministry of Ayush is helpful in the treatment of asymptomatic, mild and moderate COVID-19 infection as an adjunct to standard care. The Ministry of Ayush-Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) collaboration has recently completed a robust multi-centre clinical trial to evaluate the safety and efficacy of AYUSH 64 in the management of mild to moderate COVID-19 patients. Further, Kabasur Kudineer, a Siddha preparation was also subjected to clinical trials to study the efficacy in COVID-19 patients by Central Council for Research in Siddha (CCRS) under Ministry of Ayush also found useful in the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 infection.
- ii. In order to provide a maximum benefit of Ayush systems of medicine, a Nationwide campaign for the distribution of AYUSH-64 and Kabasura Kudineer through Research Councils and National Institute under Ministry of Ayush across the country.
- iii. Ministry of Ayush has developed Ayush Sanjivani mobile app and has documented the impact assessment of effectiveness, acceptance and usage of Ayush advisories & measures in the prevention of COVID-19 through the Mobile app base population study in around 1.5 crores respondents. 85.1% of the respondents reported the use of Ayush measures for the prevention of COVID-19, among which 89.8% of respondents agreed to have benefitted from the practice of Ayush advisory.

iv. Ministry of Ayush has formed an Inter-disciplinary AYUSH R&D Task Force chaired by Prof. Bhushan Patwardhan and represents scientists including ICMR, DBT, CSIR, AIIMS and AYUSH Institutions. The Interdisciplinary AYUSH Research and Development Task Force has formulated and designed clinical research protocols for prophylactic studies and add-on interventions in COVID-19 positive cases through a thorough review and consultative process of experts of high repute from different organizations across the country for studying four different interventions viz. Ashwagandha, Yashtimadhu, Guduchi + Pippali and a polyherbal formulation (AYUSH-64). The task force has taken up the proposals received from screening committees of Councils and proactively explored possibilities based on available leads.

v. Ministry of Ayush has launched interdisciplinary studies involving AYUSH interventions for COVID-19 based on the Task Force recommendations. Under various research organizations and National Institutes under the Ministry of AYUSH, 126 research studies at 152 centres in the country have been initiated on AYUSH interventions.

vi. Ministry of Ayush recommended self-care guidelines for preventive health measures and boosting immunity.

vii. Ministry of Ayush has issued guidelines for Registered Practitioners of the respective system of AYUSH. The Director Generals of Research Councils and Directors of the National Institutes with their team of experts have prepared these guidelines and same is vetted by the Interdisciplinary AYUSH Research and Development Task Force of Ministry of AYUSH. These guidelines are made available in the public domain to benefit the registered AYUSH practitioners to help in the management of COVID-19 pandemic uniformly.

viii. Ministry of Ayush has also released Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha preventive measures for self-care during COVID-19 and Guidelines for Ayush Practitioners for COVID-19 Patients in Home Isolation.

ix. Ministry of Ayush has also issued an advisory for Ayush practitioners on ethical practices during the COVID-19 pandemic.

x. Ministry of Ayush has released Home care guidelines for children and Advisory for AYUSH Practitioners about prophylactic care in Children during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

(b) & (c): The details regarding the steps taken by the Ministry to take care of people during COVID-19 are at **Annexure**.

1. Ministry of Ayush issued an advisory on protecting yourself from COVID-19 and staying healthy. In the advisory, in addition to maintaining hygiene like hand wash, use of mask, etc. simple home remedies were also suggested for people.
2. A letter to all Chief Secretaries of States / Union territories was sent from the Ministry with more specific suggestions on augmentation of General Immunity of people and possible Ayush intervention wherever required in coordination with Health departments of the States / UTs.
3. A letter was sent to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to integrate and utilize huge Ayush infrastructure to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. Ministry has sent a D.O. letter to Principals of all Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy (ASU&H) colleges (approximately 727 colleges) for utilization of available infrastructure facilities like Hospital (IPD & OPD), pathology laboratory, ICU and manpower including medical & Paramedical Staff to combat with the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, they were requested to offer their services to local health authorities for utilization of the available facilities by them as per the situation arises. Accordingly, the various Ayush institutes hospital were utilized by State Governments and designated as Quarantine Centre, Isolation Centre, COVID Care Centre and Covid Health Centre.
5. A D.O. letter from Secretary, Ayush was sent to Secretary DHR & DG, ICMR to initiate research for Ayush leads to deal with Corona Pandemic.
6. The Ministry uses video conferencing and social media platforms to reach out to the Ayush practitioners and involve them in stopping and discouraging false and unsupported claims.
7. Ministry of Ayush recommends self-care guidelines for preventive health measures and boosting immunity with special reference to respiratory health.

General Measures

Ayurvedic Immunity Promoting Measures

Simple Ayurvedic Procedures

During dry cough/sore throat

8. Ministry of Ayush and MoHFW have jointly provided training to 33,000 Ayush master trainers. Total 66045 AYUSH Personnel had obtained training at igot.in platform on a continual basis. Ministry of Ayush has coordinated with MoHFW for utilization of Ayush manpower as COVID warriors to manage COVID-19 with identified roles.

9. Ministry of Ayush has formed an Interdisciplinary Ayush R&D Task Force chaired by Prof. Bhushan Patwardhan and having representation from scientists including ICMR, DBT, CSIR, AIIMS and AYUSH Institutions. The Interdisciplinary Ayush Research and Development Task Force has formulated and designed clinical research protocols for prophylactic studies and add-on interventions in COVID-19 positive cases through a thorough review and consultative process of high repute experts from different organizations across the country for studying four different interventions viz. Ashwagandha, Yashtimadhu, Guduchi + Pippali and a polyherbal formulation (AYUSH-64).

10. Ministry of Ayush issued Gazette notification for undertaking research on COVID-19 through Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homeopathy Systems including prophylactic measures, intervention during the quarantine, asymptomatic and symptomatic cases of COVID-19, Public Health Research, Survey, Lab-Based Research etc. to generate evidence.

Ministry of Ayush has also launched interdisciplinary studies involving Ayush interventions for COVID-19 based on Task Force recommendations. Under various research organizations and National Institutes under the Ministry of Ayush, 126 research studies at approx. 152 centres in the country have been initiated on Ayush interventions. Ministry of Ayush has also taken initiatives to conduct clinical studies on Ayurvedic medicine with countries like the USA, Brazil, South Africa, Ghana, UK, Germany, etc.

11. Ministry of Ayush has issued guidelines for Registered Practitioners of the respective system of AYUSH. The Director Generals of Research Councils and Directors of the National Institutes with their team of experts have prepared these guidelines and same is vetted by the Interdisciplinary AYUSH Research and Development Task Force of Ministry of AYUSH. These guidelines are made available in the public domain to benefit the registered AYUSH practitioners to help in the management of COVID-19 pandemic uniformly.

12. In order to make the process of product approval/licensing consistent at State/UT level for effective quality control of Ayurvedic, Siddha, Unani and Homeopathic medicines underwent clinical trials/research studies for COVID-19, the Ministry has directed all the State/UT Licensing Authorities to forward license application of such formulations with details and results of the clinical trial/research study for verification by the Central Government in the Ministry of Ayush and also directed that all State/UT Licensing Authorities shall grant the approval or license to manufacture for sale of any such formulation only after obtaining clearance from the Central Government.

13. The Ministry of Ayush launched a three-month campaign on “Ayush for Immunity”, through webinars and publishing a campaign bulletin on Ayush for Immunity. More than 50 thousand people participated in the Webinar.

14. Government of India has released **“National Clinical Management Protocol based on Ayurveda and Yoga for management of COVID-19”** prepared by the National Task Force with the consensus from various expert committees.
15. Ministry of Ayush has also released Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha preventive measures for self-care during COVID-19 and Guidelines for Ayush Practitioners for COVID-19 Patients in Home Isolation.
16. Ministry of Ayush has also issued an advisory for Ayush practitioners on ethical practices during COVID-19 pandemic.
17. Ministry of Ayush vide its D.O. letter No. Y-18020/2/2020 –EP-III has requested all the States/UTs to issue appropriate instructions to District Authorities urgently to involve District Ayurveda Officers in the management and mitigation of COVID-19 in the districts and utilize the services of Ayush doctors, Ayush healthcare providers and Ayush health care facilities extensively so that the shortage of manpower and infrastructure for the management of COVID -19 can be duly addressed.
18. States/ UTs licensing authorities / Drug Controllers have been informed to allow licensed manufactures for AYUSH-64 under their jurisdiction to include a new indication of AYUSH-64 for repurposing intervention for the management of asymptomatic, mild to moderate COVID-19 in addition to existing indication (s). Further, States/ UTs Licensing Authorities have been requested to expedite the licensing/ approval of the application for the manufacturing of AYUSH-64.
19. Ministry of Ayush vide D.O letter No.S-16030/13/3030-NAM has also requested the States/UTs Governments to popularize the use of *Kabasura kudineer* and AYUSH-64 in the asymptomatic, mild to moderate COVID-19 patients at isolation centres/ COVID Care Centre / Covid Health Centre, Ayush Hospitals/ Dispensaries and patients in home isolation.
20. In order to provide the maximum benefit of Ayush systems of medicine, a Nationwide campaign for the distribution of AYUSH-64 and *Kabasura Kudineer* through Research Councils and National Institutes under the Ministry of Ayush across the country.
21. For continuing with the efforts to augment human resources for the management of COVID-19 cases, the Ministry of Ayush has issued an advisory to deploy the trained Ayush human resources available with them for clinical management of COVID-19 cases.

22. Ministry of AYUSH has released Home care guidelines for children and Advisory for AYUSH Practitioners about prophylactic care in Children during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

23. To strengthen the community-wide effort to limit the spread of COVID-19, the Ministry of Ayush has also operationalized a dedicated community support helpline i.e. toll-free number 14443, to provide AYUSH-based approaches and solutions for the challenges raised by COVID -19.

24. Ministry of Ayush has launched an Ayush Clinical Case Repository (ACCR) portal and the third version of the Ayush Sanjivani App. The Ayush Clinical Case Repository (ACCR) portal (<https://accr.ayush.gov.in/>) will serve as a platform to support both Ayush practitioners and the general public.