

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AYUSH**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2286
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH DECEMBER, 2021**

TREATMENT OF COVID-19 PATIENTS UNDER AYUSH

**2286. SHRI GIRISH CHANDRA:
SHRI KANUMURU RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU**

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any policy to fight against COVID-19 using all the treatments available under AYUSH including Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy streams and if so, the details of the progress made in this regard;
- (b) the number of AYUSH COVID centres/clinics set up in the country to fight against Corona Virus, State/ UT-wise;
- (c) whether COVID patients were admitted in the AYUSH centres and if so, the details thereof along with the recovery rates of patients who were treated and the outcome of assessment made in this regard;
- (d) whether there are any records available on the efficacy of AYUSH protocol for treatment as an add on for prophylactic treatment for COVID-19 and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of total funds released for the treatment of COVID-19 to AYUSH hospitals?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF AYUSH
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)**

(a): The steps taken by Ministry of Ayush to promote Ayush System to tackle Covid-19 pandemic are at **Annexure I**.

(b) &(c): The number of AYUSH COVID centres/clinics set up in the country to fight against Corona Virus and COVID patients admitted in such AYUSH centres alongwith treatment outcomeas reported by State/ UT-governments and National Institutes under Ministry of Ayush is furnished at **Annexure-II**.

(d):

- i. 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 recommendations of Task force. Under various research organizations and National Institutes under Ministry of AYUSH, 138 research studies in the country are being conducted on AYUSH interventions as prophylactic interventions.
- ii. AYUSH Sanjivani mobile app has also been developed by Ministry of AYUSH and has documented the impact assessment of effectiveness, acceptance and usage of AYUSH advisories & measures in the prevention of COVID-19 through Mobile app base population study in around 1.35 crores respondents and analysis of 7.24 lakh public data revealed that 85.1% of the respondents reported use of AYUSH measures for prevention of COVID-19, among which 89.8% respondents agreed to have benefitted from the practice of AYUSH advisory.

(e): As per the requests received from State/UT Governments regarding utilization of National AYUSH Mission (NAM) funds for purchase of medicines including AYUSH 64 Medicine in the context of Covid-19 pandemic, an amount of Rs. 2271.551 lakhs has been approved by Ministry of Ayush. The details are furnished at **Annexure-III**.

Initiatives/Action taken by Ministry of Ayush for the management of COVID-19 pandemic are as follows -

1. Ministry of AYUSH issued an advisory on how to protect yourself from COVID and how to stay 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 about possible AYUSH intervention wherever required in coordination with Health departments of the States / UTs.
3. A letter was sent to Ministry of Health & Family welfare offering for integrating and utilizing huge AYUSH infrastructure to combat with the COVID19 pandemic.
4. Ministry has sent a D.O. letter to Principal's 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 COVID19 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 is using platforms like video conferencing and social media to reach out to 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.
 - General Measures
 - Ayurvedic Immunity Promoting Measures
 - Simple Ayurvedic Procedures
 - During dry cough/sore throat
8. Office order has been issued to all State/UT Governments, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Department of Electronics & Information Technology, Press Council of India to stop the publicity and advertisement of AYUSH-related claims for COVID-19 treatment in TV channels, electronic and print media. It is recommended for them to take necessary action against the persons/agencies acting in contravention of relevant legal provisions and NDMA guidelines in this regard. This order also seeks from National, Intermediary and Peripheral Pharmacovigilance Centres of AYUSH and Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) to monitor and report such misleading advertisements/claims about AYUSH.

9. The Ministry of AYUSH launched a three-month campaign on “Ayush for Immunity”, through webinar and also publishing campaign bulletin on AYUSH for Immunity. More than 50 thousand people participated in the Webinar.
10. 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 continual basis. Ministry of AYUSH has coordinated with MoHFW for utilisation of AYUSH manpower as COVID warrior for the management of COVID-19 with identified roles.
11. Ministry of AYUSH has formed an Inter-disciplinary 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 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 poly herbal formulation (AYUSH-64).
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14. Guidelines for Registered Practitioners of respective system of AYUSH have been prepared by Director Generals of Research Councils and Directors of National Institutes with their team of experts and same is vetted by the Interdisciplinary AYUSH Research and Development Task Force of Ministry of AYUSH. These guidelines are made available in public domain for the benefit of registered AYUSH practitioners including Homoeopathy to help in the management of COVID 19 pandemic uniformly.
15. Government of India has also released “**National Clinical Management Protocol based on Ayurveda and Yoga for management of COVID-19**”
16. Ministry of Ayush has also released Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha preventive measures for selfcare during COVID-19 and Guidelines for Ayush Practitioners for COVID-19 Patients in Home Isolation.

17. During the second wave of this pandemic, the scientists of reputed research institutions of the country have found that AYUSH 64, a poly herbal formulation developed by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Ministry of Ayush is useful 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, *KabasuraKudineer*, a siddha preparation was also subjected to clinical trials for studying the efficacy in Covid-19 patients by Central Council for Research in Siddha (CCRS) under Ministry of Ayush and is also found useful in the treatment of mild to moderate covid-19 infection.
18. States/ UTs licensing authorities / Drug Controllers has been informed to allow the licensed manufactures for AYUSH-64 under their jurisdiction to include new indication of AYUSH-64 for repurposing as an 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 process of the licensing/ approval of 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 popularise the use of *Kabasurakudineer* and AYUSH-64 in the asymptomatic, mild to moderate COVID-19 patients at isolationcentres/ Covid Care Centre / Covid Health Centre ,Ayush hospitals/ dispensary and patients in home isolation.
20. In order to provide maximum benefit of Ayush systems of medicine, a Nation-wide campaign for distribution of AYUSH-64 and *KabasuraKudineer* through 86 clinical units of Research Councils and National Institute under Ministry of Ayush across the country.
21. Ministry of Ayush has also issued advisory for ayush practitioners on ethical practices during covid 19 pandemic.
22. Ministry of Ayush vide its D.O. letter no. Y-18020/2/2020 –EP-III has requested all 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.
23. 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.
24. Ministry of Ayush has released information for Ayurveda Practitioners for Prophylactic, Symptomatic Management of suspected and diagnosed cases of Mucormycosis.
25. Ministry of Ayush has released "Ayush Recommendations for the public on holistic health and well-being Preventive measures and care during COVID-19 and LONG COVID-19".

Annexure – II

The number of AYUSH COVID centres/clinics set up in the country to fight against Corona Virus and COVID patients admitted in such AYUSH centres alongwith treatment outcome:

S. No.	Name of States/UTs	Number of AYUSH COVID centres/clinics	Number of COVID patients admitted & treatment of Outcome
1	Assam	1	1738
2	Karnataka	6	5298
3	Mizoram	1	570 Treated Successfully
4	Telangana	4	7573 98% treated successfully
5.	Haryana	11	5105 Treated successfully

S. No.	Name of the National Institutes under Ministry of Ayush	Number of AYUSH COVID centres/clinics	Number of COVID patients admitted & treatment of Outcome
1	Institute of Training & research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar, Gujarat	1	395 Successfully treated
2	National Institute of Siddha, Chennai	4	4167 helped in the speedy recovery of mild and moderate COVID patients.
3.	All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi	1	592 99% patient who completed treatment became negative before discharge

Approval for utilization of National AYUSH Mission (NAM) funds for purchase of medicines including AYUSH 64 Medicine in the context of Covid-19 pandemic:-

Sr. No.	Name of the State/UT	Amount approved (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Jharkhand	528.10
2	Manipur	82.618
3	Mizoram	47.10
4	Tamil Nadu	145.00
5	Gujarat	471.85
6	Jammu & Kashmir	395.224
7	Himachal Pradesh	240.359
8	Karnataka	361.430
	Total	2271.551