

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AYUSH**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 949
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03RD DECEMBER, 2021**

INDIAN MEDICINAL SYSTEM TO TACKLE COVID-19

**949. SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA:
SHRI BALAK NATH:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to promote Indian Medicinal System and identify effective medicines under Ayurvedic, Unani or Homeopathic system to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding the impact of Indian Medicinal System in tackling Coronavirus;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

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

(c): Does Not Arise

(d) & (e):

- i. AYUSH Sanjivani mobile app has also been developed by the 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 using AYUSH measures for prevention of COVID-19, among which 89.8% respondents agreed to have benefitted from the practice of AYUSH advisory.

- ii. Ministry of AYUSH has formed an Inter-disciplinary AYUSH R&D Task Force chaired by Prof. Bhushan Patwardhan and has representation from scientists including ICMR, DBT, CSIR, AIIMS and AYUSH Institutions. The Inter-disciplinary 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 poly herbal formulation (AYUSH-64).
- iii. 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, 138 research studies have been initiated in the country on AYUSH interventions as prophylactic interventions.

(f): Does not arise

Initiatives/Actions taken by the 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 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 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 utilization of AYUSH manpower as COVID warrior for the management of COVID-19 with identified roles.
11. 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 Inter-disciplinary 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.
12. Government of India has also released “**National Clinical Management Protocol based on Ayurveda and Yoga for management of COVID-19**” prepared by National Task force which in consensus from various expert committees.
13. 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.
14. Ministry of Ayush has also issued advisory for AYUSH practitioners on ethical practices during COVID-19 pandemic.
15. 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.
16. For continuing with the efforts to augment human resources for the management of COVID-19 cases, the Ministry of Ayush has issued advisory to deploy the trained AYUSH human resources available with them for clinical management of COVID-19 cases.
17. 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.
18. Ministry of Ayush has released information for Ayurveda Practitioners for Prophylactic, Symptomatic Management of suspected and diagnosed cases of Mucormycosis.
