

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AYUSH**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 497  
ANSWERED ON 04.02.2022**

**AYUSH MEDICINES FOR GERIATRIC POPULATION**

**497. SHRI M.V.V. SATYANARAYANA:  
SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR BELLANA:  
SHRI N. REDDEPPA:  
SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL:  
SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY:  
SHRI ADALA PRABHAKARA REDDY:  
SHRIMATI GODDETI MADHAVI:**

Will the Minister of AYUSH be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has taken any steps to improve health of the geriatric population of the country following the pandemic;
- (b) if so, details thereof; and
- (c) the number of people of 60 years and above age across the country to whom AYUSH prophylactic medicines have been distributed till date under “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” campaign, State-wise including Maharashtra?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has taken various steps to improve health of the general public including geriatric population of the country following the pandemic.

Prophylactic medicines for prevention of COVID-19 from Ayush systems including Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy were distributed free of cost to general public including geriatric population. Initiatives/Actions taken by Ministry of Ayush for management of COVID-19 pandemic are at **Annexure-I**.

( c ) State/UT-wise number of people including 60 years and above age across the country to whom AYUSH prophylactic medicines have been distributed till 01<sup>st</sup> February, 2022 under “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” campaign by Ministry of Ayush is attached as **Annexure-II**.

**Initiatives/Actions taken by Ministry of Ayush for improving health of the general public including geriatric population of the country during COVID-19 pandemic.**

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 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. 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
6. Ministry of Ayush has released guidelines for Ayurveda Practitioners for COVID-19 patients in Home Isolation and Ayurveda & Unani based Preventive Measures for self care during COVID-19 Pandemic.
7. Ministry of Ayush has released an advisory on Ayush interventions for Prophylaxis & Management of COVID-19 and Ayush guidelines for COVID-19 cases for care givers.

8. 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.
9. Government of India has also released “National Clinical Management Protocol based on Ayurveda and Yoga for management of COVID-19”.
10. 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.
11. 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, *KabasurKudineer*, 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.
12. 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 *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/ dispensary and patients in home isolation.
13. In order to provide maximum benefit of AYUSH systems of medicine, a Nation-wide campaign for distribution of AYUSH-64 and *Kabasura Kudineer* through clinical units of Research Councils and National Institutes under the Ministry of Ayush across the country.
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.
19. 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**

**State-wise number of people including 60 years and above age across the country including Maharashtra to whom AYUSH prophylactic medicines have been distributed till 01<sup>st</sup> February, 2022 under “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” campaign by Ministry of Ayush.**

State / Uts	Number of beneficiaries
Andman and Nicobar Islands	3809
Andhra Pradesh	103758
Arunachal Pradesh	5467
Assam	33843
Bihar	41771
Delhi	157668
Gujarat	55548
Himachal pradesh	15881
Jammu and Kashmir	30379
Jharkhand	5251
Kerala	120849
Karnataka	21023
Ladakh	50
Madhya Pradesh	40711
<b>Maharashtra</b>	<b>109329</b>
Manipur	10420
Mizoram	1339
Meghalaya	958
Nagaland	8925
Odisha	57382
Puducherry	20433
Punjab	14400
Rajasthan	73844
Sikkim	6264
Tamil Nadu	144596
Telangana	53839
Tripura	22051
Uttarakhand	5633
Uttar Pradesh	78240
West Bengal	46143
<b>Total</b>	<b>1289804</b>