

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AYUSH
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5528
ANSWERED ON 04.04.2025
Healthcare Services for Senior Citizens

5528. Dr. D. Purandeswari:

Shri Mitesh Patel Bakabhai:

Shri Hasmukhbhai Somabhai Patel:

Will the Minister of AYUSH

be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the MoU signed by the Government to enhance geriatric healthcare and combat substance abuse particularly in Rajahmundry Parliamentary constituency of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether this initiative is expected to strengthen healthcare services for senior citizens and improve rehabilitation efforts for substance abuse victims and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the anticipated impact of integrating Ayush-based treatments into mainstream healthcare for elderly care and de-addiction programmes and the steps taken by the Government to ensure accessibility; and

(d) the measures adopted by the Government to collaborate with relevant stakeholders and align this initiative with national healthcare policies and the global best practices in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF AYUSH
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)

(a) to (d) A MoU was signed between Ministry of Ayush (MoA) and Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE) on 12.02.2025 with the following objectives -

i. Develop cooperation, convergence and synergy between MoA and DoSJE to have innovative initiatives to promote health of senior citizens and also to attempt reducing

demand for drugs and substance abuse, their treatment and mental rehabilitation through, awareness generation, capacity building of service providers through Ayush systems.

- ii. Promote research in the area of geriatric health, substance abuse and mental health
- iii. Any other activities for the purpose of health promotion of geriatric as well as drug addict population.

As per the MoU, the roles and responsibilities of MoA for geriatric healthcare and substance abuse are to develop training module and treatment protocol of Ayush system in the field of geriatric caregivers and substance abuse counsellors, develop video module on yoga training program, share knowledge and practices in preventive and curative care, provide Ayush related technical support and provide geriatric healthcare and de-addiction through autonomous bodies under MoA.

Under the MoU, DOSJE is responsible for facilitating the Ayush Autonomous bodies in establishing the Geriatric Health Centers, support the research in the area of geriatric health, promote the integration of any of Ayush services in old age homes, to incorporate the Ayush system in preventive and curative aspects of senior citizens, create awareness about the Ayush system amongst the senior citizens, to support and develop Information Education Communication (IEC) material on geriatric care, to support in organizing the training programs, workshops and seminars aimed at capacity building of geriatric caregivers. Copy of the MoU has been shared with the Regional Resource Training Centres (RRTCs) under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment to expand the reach of the MoU for the welfare of the senior citizens of the country including Rajahmundry Parliamentary constituency of Andhra Pradesh.
