

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.549  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2016**

**ALZHEIMER DISEASE**

**549. SHRI PONGULETI SRINIVASA REDDY:**

Will the Minister of **AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH)** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the clinical trials of drugs for Alzheimer's disease have not been successful;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any institute is conducting any innovative research using ashwagandha for treatment of Alzheimer's disease;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to promote ayurveda for treatment of Alzheimer's disease?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA,  
YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY  
(SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)**

(a )& (b): Yes. As per information furnished by the Department of Biotechnology, it is reported that most of the clinical trials for Alzheimer disease are not successful as the cause of the disease is not known. In these clinical trials reduction of the Amyloid Plaque load in the brain or for prevention of grouping of amyloid beta peptide oligomer formation was considered. In some trials, even the generation of the amyloid peptide was slowed down by the trial drugs but it created huge side effects in those human trials.

(c ) & (d): As per available information, no clinical trial has been undertaken in the country using Ashwagandha for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

(e): In Ayurveda, Rasayana medicines are recommended for the treatment of degenerative diseases including conditions simulating Alzheimer's disease. Rasayana medicines including Ashwagandha are promoted through Information, Education and Communication(IEC) activities and scientific validation studies by the Research Councils. An Extra Mural Research Scheme is also implemented to support such scientific studies.

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