

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:541

ANSWERED ON:25.04.2001

CONVENTIONAL METHODS OF TREATMENT FOR MENTAL AND PHYSICAL DISEASES

PADAMSEN CHAUDHARY;RAMPAL SINGH

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether conventional methods of treatment of physical and mental diseases are being grossly neglected;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government propose to formulate an ambitious scheme to encourage research work in conventional methods of treatment; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 541 FOR 25.4.2001

(a) to (d): The Indian Systems of Medicine (as different from modern allopathic medicine) have been accorded due attention and prominence. A vast infrastructure has been set up throughout the country comprising 2854 hospitals, 396 colleges and 22735 dispensaries. There are over 6.11 lakhs registered practitioners of various systems. A new Department was created in 1995 to look after the development and propagation of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Yoga, Naturopathy and Homoeopathy systems.

Emphasis has been placed on the implementation of various schemes which address the thrust areas identified for the development of the Indian Systems of Medicine which inter-alia include:-

- Upgradation of educational standards of the institutions.
- Improving the availability of raw-material.
- Quality control and standardization of drugs.
- Encouraging research in identified areas.
- Building awareness about the efficacy of the systems in India and abroad.
- Integration of the systems into the national health care delivery system including the Reproductive & Child Health Services.

Four autonomous Councils have been set up to initiate, guide, develop and coordinate scientific research in different aspects of the respective system of medicine. The Councils have been conducting research in various aspects including physical and mental/behavioural disorders. Apart from this, 21 institutions are presently being supported financially for conducting research in 25 areas under the scheme of Extra Mural Research on ISM&H. The main areas where the Indian Systems of Medicine have strengths have been identified and operational research studies, clinical trials and efficacy studies are also being promoted covering areas of current relevance and emerging interest.

The Indian Council of Medical Research has been funding research proposals in this area for scientific validation of treatment. The Department of Bio-technology, the Council for Scientific & Industrial Research and the Defence Research and Development Organization among others are also engaged in conducting research in this sector. Clinical trials to prove the efficacy of the drugs have been given emphasis and institutions and industry are being encouraged to undertake further research to promote wider acceptance of traditional Indian Medicine.