

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4332

ANSWERED ON:23.04.2008

ACCUPUNCTURE AS AN APPROVED SYSTEM OF TREATMENT

Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to acknowledge Accupuncture therapy as an approved system of treatment in the Government Hospitals; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the notification issued thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE(DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) & (b): A Standing Committee of Experts constituted by the Central Govt. under the chairmanship of DG, ICMR recommended that Accupuncture and Hyprotherapy which qualified as modes of therapy could be allowed to be practiced by registered practitioners or appropriately trained personnel.The Committee further recommended that those considered as Mode of Therapy can be conducted as Certificate courses for registered medical practitioners to adopt these modes of therapy in their practice, whether modern medicine or Indian System of Medicine and Homoepathy.

The above recommendations of the Committee were brought to the notice of all the State Govt./UTs for compliance.A copy of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare's letter dated 25.11.2003 in this regard, is annexed.

Annexure

No.R.14015/25/96-U&H(R)(Pt.) Government of India Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (Research Desk)

Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi Dated the 25th November, 2003

ORDER

The matter regarding grant of recognition to the various streams of alternative medicine including electropathy/electrohomeopathy, has been under consideration of the Govt. In this process Govt. has considered the orders dated 18.11.98 of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in CWP No.4015/96 & OM No.8468/97 which has inter-alia directed the Central/State Govts. to consider making legislation to grant of licenses to the existing and new institutes etc. to control & regulate the various 'unrecognised' streams of alternative medicines and also to give adequate publicity through media informing public about the 'Respondents' and similar other institutes not being recognized by the Govt. & affiliated with any of the Councils.

2. Government constituted a 'Standing Committee of Experts' under the Chairmanship of Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research and members were drawn from various fields of medicine to consider & give its recommendations to the Government on the efficacy/merits of various streams of alternative medicine and also examine feasibility of making legislation as suggested by the Hon'ble Court.

3. The Committee developed essential & desirable criteria for grant of recognition to a new stream of medicine and analysed the different streams of 'Alternative medicine viz. Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Homeopathy, Yoga & Naturopathy, Electropathy/Electrohomeopathy, Acupuncture, magnetotherapy, Reiki, Reflexology, Urine Therapy/Autourine Therapy, Hypnotherapy, Aromotherapy Colour therapy, Pranic Healing, Gems & Stone Therapy and Music Therapy.

4. The Committee did not recommend recognition to any of these alternative medicines except the already recognized traditional systems of medicines, viz. Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Homeopathy and Yoga & Naturopathy which were found to fulfill the essential & desirable criteria developed by the Committee for recognition of a system of medicine. The Committee has, however, recommended that certain practices as Acupuncture and Hypnotherapy which qualified as modes of therapy, could be allowed to be practiced by registered practitioners or appropriately trained personnel. The Committee further suggested that all those Systems of Medicine not recognized as separate Systems should not be allowed to continue full time Bachelor and Master's degree courses and the term "Doctor" should be used only by practitioners of Systems of Medicine recognized by the Government of India.Those considered as Mode of Therapy can be conducted as Certificate courses for registered medical practitioners to adopt these modes of therapy in their practice, whether modern medicine or Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoepathy.

After carefully examining the various recommendations of the Committee,the Government accepted these recommendations of the Committee. Accordingly, it is requested that the State/UT Govt. may give wide publicity to the decision of the Govt. They may also ensure that institutions under the State/UT do not grant any degree/diploma in the stream of medicine which have not been

recommended for recognition and the term 'Doctor' is used by practitioners of recognized system of medicine.

This issues with the approval of Secretary(Health), Ministry of Health & FW.
(Bhavani Thyagarajan) Joint Secretary

To

1. All Health Secretaries of States/UTs.

2. Secretary, UGC

3. Dental Council of India, Indian Nursing Council, Medical Council of India, Pharmacy Council of India, Indian Council of Medical Research

4. Secretary, Deptt. of ISM&H

5. CCIM, CCH, CCREAS, CCRYN, CCRH, CCRUM