

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3118

ANSWERED ON:19.08.2011

AYURVEDIC, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICINES

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted/proposed any study/survey to ascertain the usefulness and acceptability of Ayurvedic, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathic medicines in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to ensure the efficacy and quality of these medicines in the country;
- (d) whether the Government has taken note of the exaggerated claims by the manufacturers of these medicines; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken/proposed to verify these claims?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

(a) & (b) The National Health System Resource Centre (NHSRC) had undertaken a study titled "Status and Role of AYUSH and Local Health Tradition under National Rural Health Mission" in the year 2008 to 2010.

Further, the National Sample Survey Office is collecting information on assessment of the house-holds on effectiveness of the Ayurvedic, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathic medicines from the hospitals, dispensaries, Primary Health Centers and Community Health Centers.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) promotes research in the area of Traditional medicine through its intramural and extramural programmes. Intramural research is being carried out at Council's Regional Medical Research Centre, Belgaum which includes preparation of database of ethnomedicinal plants of Western Ghats, Museum for ethnomedicinal plants of Western Ghats, Medicinal Plant Garden and survey on usage, availability and utility of Traditional medicines/ formulations in this region. In addition, a collaborative programme between ICMR and National Innovation Foundation, Ahmedabad has been initiated with the objective of validation and add value to hitherto undocumented non-codified unique traditional knowledge entered in the database of National Innovation Foundation.

(c) The Government has taken following steps to ensure the efficacy and quality of the Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani & Homeopathic medicines: -

(i) Research Councils for Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy are working on efficacy of these medicines independently as well as in collaboration with reputed research organization;

(ii) Pharmacopeia Commission for Indian Medicine (PCIM) has been set up;

(iii) So far pharmaceutical standards have been published for 752 Ayurvedic medicines, 398 Unani medicines, 73 Siddha medicines and 944 Homoeopathic medicines;

(iv) The Indian Council of Medical Research is also engaged in supporting the cause of quality standardization of medicinal plants through its publications by outsourcing the work to various institutions across the country. The programme has been initiated to develop standards of select medicinal plants involving analytical and chromatographic techniques and to prepare monographs as per World Health Organization specifications on quality standards. Nine volumes on Quality Standards of Indian Medicinal Plants have been published from 2003 to 2011 covering 309 medicinal plants. This initiative may eventually help in developing quality assured safe herbal drugs.

(d) Yes.

(e) The Drugs & Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisement) Act, 1954 is being implemented by the State Governments.