

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4069
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2011
ACUPUNCTURE AND YOGA THERAPY
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether acupuncture and yoga therapy are approved systems under the Alternative systems of medicines in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of recognised hospitals providing acupuncture and yoga therapy in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to promote and popularise these systems and introduce them in hospitals in the country;
- (e) whether the Government has taken any steps to protect yoga patent rights; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN)

- (a) & (b): Yoga therapy is recognised system in the country, whereas acupuncture is not recognised.
- (c) There are 4 (3 in Karnataka and 1 in Rajasthan) Government Hospitals in the Country providing Yoga therapy.
- (d) Yoga is being promoted and popularized by conducting and supporting educational & training programmes, workshops & conferences, lectures of eminent experts and disease specific therapy programmes. The IEC activities of the Government for AYUSH include awareness building about potential of Yoga for health care and management of stress and lifestyle disorders.
- The Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy, an autonomous organization under the Department of AYUSH has implemented a scheme to facilitate establishment of Treatment-cum-Propagation Centre of Yoga & Naturopathy.
- Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), another autonomous organization under the Department of AYUSH has taken up following initiatives to promote Yoga by setting up:
- i. Advanced Yoga Centers in 5 institutes.
 - ii. Yoga Therapy & Research Centers in 6 hospitals.
 - iii. Preventive health care units of Yoga in 20 CGHS dispensaries in Delhi.
 - iv. Yoga Wellness Centers in 100 districts in the first phase and expend the initiative further in 12th Five Year Plan.

In addition, Research & Development projects on Yoga in collaboration with premier Medical & AYUSH Institutions and a project on introduction of Yoga in School Health Programmes have also been taken up by MDNIY.

(e) & (f): The Department of AYUSH in collaboration with the Council for Scientific & Industrial Research has taken up a project entitled 'Traditional Knowledge Digital Library' to forestall the wrongful grant of patents by International Patent Offices on Indian Traditional Medicinal Knowledge including 'Yoga'. A total number of 1,346 Yoga postures have been transcribed in patent compatible format in the TKDL database up to 31st May, 2011.