

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4123
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2011
LOCAL TREATMENT POTENTIAL OF NORTH EASTERN STATES
Rai Shri Prem Das

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

- (a) whether the Government has identified local health issues and local cures in the North Eastern States under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM);
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has drawn any long term plan to harness local knowledge and treatment potential of the North Eastern States in the Health Sector, especially under alternative systems of medicines;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): No. The Department of AYUSH is however, implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of AYUSH Hospitals and Dispensaries, which is subsumed under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). Under this scheme, the Department of AYUSH provides financial assistance for setting up of AYUSH units in the Primary Health Centers (PHCs), Community Health Centers (CHCs) and District Hospitals (DHs). It also provides financial assistance for up-gradation of existing Government AYUSH hospitals and dispensaries, Procurement of essential drugs, establishment of Project Management Units and establishment of 50/10 bedded integrated AYUSH Hospitals in North Eastern States.

(c) & (d): The North Eastern Institute of Folk Medicine (NEIFM), has been set up in Pashighat in Arunachal Pradesh. Its aims and objectives are to survey, document and validate folk medicine practices, remedies and therapies prevalent in the NE region, with a view to revitalize, promote and harness these local health traditions. The NEIFM will create an interface between traditional / folk medicine practitioners and research institutes to enable proper understanding of folk medicine. It will help to upgrade the skills and build and enhance capacities of traditional / folk medicine practitioners, while protecting their intellectual property rights. If found feasible, the benefits of these Local Health Traditions will be integrated into the mainstream health care system, for wide usage by the public at the primary health care level.

In addition to the above, Department of AYUSH is also implementing a Central Sector Scheme for "Revitalization of Local Health Tradition" (LHT) during the 11th Five Year Plan.

The main aim of the scheme is to support proposals for local health practices, practitioners in various parts of the country and document such practices related to home remedies, food and nutrition, midwifery, bone setting, ethno veterinary practices and other specialized local health practices.

Till date, thirty seven proposals have been approved in different States under this scheme, involving an amount of Rs. 4.76 crores. Out of these, eight proposals are related with the North Eastern States and an amount of Rs. 99.65 lakhs has been released to the North Eastern States for undertaking activities under this scheme.

(e) Does not arise.