

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4321  
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2013  
TRADITIONAL MEDICINES  
Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar

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

- (a) whether India had participated in the International Conference on Traditional Medicine for South-East Asian Countries held in the recent past, if so, the details in this regard;
- (b) the details of the agenda discussed during the said conference;
- (c) the details of the suggestions and expert opinion shared by various participant countries during the said conference;
- (d) whether the World Health Organisation (WHO) has been assisting various countries including India to promote safe and effective use of traditional medicines; and
- (e) if so, the details in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) to (c) Yes. The Department of AYUSH organized the International Conference on Traditional Medicine for South-East Asian Countries in collaboration with World Health Organisation (WHO)-Regional Office for South East Asia (SEARO) at Delhi during Feb. 12-14, 2013. The Health Ministers of South-East Asian countries, representing the Governments of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Minister of Indigenous Medicine Sri Lanka, and Vice Minister of Health, Timor-Leste, and the representatives of DPR Korea, Indonesia, Myanmar, Maldives and Thailand participated in the Conference. In addition, International Experts in Traditional Medicine /delegates from South East Asian (SEA) countries and other countries such as Brazil, China, Cambodia, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mali, Mongolia, UK, USA and representatives from WHO also participated in the Conference.

The agenda discussed during the conference includes the following:

- a) Adoption of Delhi Declaration on Traditional Medicine for the South-East Asian Countries
- b) Overview of Traditional Medicine in the National Health System in South-East Asia Region
- c) Global scenario of Traditional Medicine/Complementary Medicine
- d) Regulatory issues of Traditional Medicine (TM) /Complementary Medicine (CM)
- e) Issues of Integration of TM/CM in Health Care Delivery System
- f) Country Experience in Generating Evidenced-based information through Research

"Delhi Declaration on Traditional Medicine for the South – East Asian Countries" was adopted unanimously by South East Asian Countries on 13th February, 2013. Themes of the Conference on which suggestions and expert opinion were shared by various participant were Strategic framework for the use of TM/CM in Primary Health Care & its Integration in National Health Program, Strategic framework for regulation of TM/CM, Generating evidence based information through Research-Evaluating the efficacy safety and quality of TM/CM and Clinical research on TM/CM products for Primary Health Care. The recommendations emanated for the deliberations include the following :-

# Increase in commitment of National Governments in providing Traditional Medicine / Complementary Medicine (TM&CM) services for meeting primary health care needs, including drafting a policy on use of Traditional Medicine within primary health care and integrate it into national primary health care system, and for translating the policy into action.

# Harmonization of regulations and standards for trade & exchange in Products, Providers and Practices.

# Evolve national research agenda which includes clinical trial validation studies, observational studies, qualitative and cost effective research on TM/CM products and methodologies based on fundamentals of the systems.

# Recognizing the need of research in TM/CM at Primary Health care (PHC) and identifying important research areas.

(d) & (e) As informed by the WHO, they have been supporting the Member countries to promote the quality, safety and effectiveness of Traditional and Complementary Medicine through developing guidelines for the regulation of Products, Practice and Practitioners of Traditional and Complementary Medicine etc. The guidelines are shared with all Member countries to develop their own policies and regulations to ensure quality, safety and effectiveness of Traditional Medicine etc.