

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6162

ANSWERED ON:03.05.2013

AYURVEDA UNANI SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICINES

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

- (a) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to promote Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathic medicines along with the extent to which the success has been achieved in this regard;
- (b) the funds allocated to the States/ UTs for purchase of the above medicines and the status of their utilisation during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the measures taken/proposed by the Government to ensure and improve quality, safety and efficacy of these medicines against various diseases;
- (d) whether the Government has proposed to set up a Central Drug Controller's Office for Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy to be headed by Additional Drug Controller General of India (AYUSH); and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the manpower created/likely to be created to support the office of the Central Drug Controller for AYUSH including the funds earmarked/allocated for the purpose?

Answer

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

(a): Yes. The Department has taken several steps to make people aware about

efficacy, efficiency and strengths of AYUSH systems of medicines, so as to encourage them to use these medicines as per details below:

1. The Department organizes Arogya fairs at National & State level. Recently, State level fairs have been organized at Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim and National level Arogya at Hyderabad. During the fairs folders, booklets and leaflets and other publicity materials published by the Department are distributed to the public for enhancing their awareness.
2. To reach to every nook and corner of the country and to the maximum number of people, the Department carries out publicity by telecasting/ broadcasting, films/ video spots / audio spots and gives advertisements in the print media for highlighting the strengths of AYUSH systems of medicines. Multimedia Campaigns like Publicity over Delhi Metro, bus shelters, hoardings, Kolkata Metro, DTC buses, Mumbai buses, front lit panels, entry tickets during India International Trade Fair have been undertaken with the objective of propagation of AYUSH systems of medicines.
3. The Department organizes/ participates in Seminars and Conferences broadly concerning with the promotion of AYUSH systems of medicine.

As a result of the aforementioned measures undertaken by this Department, there are reports that interest of the general public towards Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathic medicines has increased. A sharp increase has also been witnessed in the footfall at Arogya fairs, Health conferences, Seminars & Workshops organized/ participated by this Department and queries/ consultations received at AYUSH Hospitals and attendance at Out-Patient Departments (OPDs) and In-patient Departments (IPDs) of our National Institutes. A statement showing the number of patients in the OPDs and IPDs in the hospitals of our National Institutes from 2005-06 to 2012-13 is at Annexure I.

(b): Details of funds allocated to States/ UTs for purchase of AYUSH Medicines and status of their utilization during each of the last three years and the current year, State/ UT-wise are given at Annexure II.

(c): The Government has taken various measures to ensure quality, safety and efficacy of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathic medicines, which are regulated under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Rules made thereunder. Under the provisions of the said Act & Rules, the State Governments appoint Licensing Authorities, who grant license for manufacturing of these medicines and enforce the legal provisions for their sale, marketing and quality standards. The Central Government is empowered to make or amend the law & rules. Besides, the Government has taken a number of regulatory measures for quality control of these medicines including enforcement of compliance to quality standards of drugs, compliance to Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP),

notification of a schedule of poisonous substances, regulatory guidelines for licensing of Ayurvedic and Unani(A&U) medicines, use of excipients, preservatives etc., notifications regarding permissible limits of heavy metals, aflatoxins, pesticide residue and microbial load and shelf life of medicines. Also, Quality Standards of 600 single Ayurvedic drugs, 152 compound Ayurvedic formulations, 298 single Unani drugs, 100 compound Unani formulations, 139 Siddha single Drugs and 1045 Homoeopathic drugs have been developed and published in Pharmacopoeias.

(d) & (e): Yes. There is a proposal to set up a Central Drug Controller office for AYUSH to be headed by Drug Controller General of India (AYUSH). Creation of 25 regular posts and 15 contractual consultants in the Central AYUSH Drug Controller's office has been projected. Allocation of Rs.102 crore in 12th Plan and Rs.7.60 crore in the annual plan 2013-14 has been budgeted for the creation of infrastructure and manpower.