

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI,
SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH)**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 429
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1ST APRIL, 2022**

SOWA-RIGPA TRADITIONAL PRACTITIONERS

***429. SHRI JAMYANG TSERING NAMGYAL:**

Will the Minister of **AYUSH** be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of traditionally trained SowaRigpa practitioners with/without having modern school certificates, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether there is any provision for registration of the traditionally trained Sowa-Rigpa practitioners under the CCIM/National Commission for Indian System of Medicine with one time relaxation of modern educational qualification;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the time line fixed by the Ministry to complete the registration of Sowa-Rigpa traditional practitioners;
- (d) if not, the reason therefor;
- (e) whether the Government plans to establish the Central Council for Research in Sowa-Rigpa to conduct scientific research in Sowa-Rigpa; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI,
SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH)**

(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

- (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 429* FOR 1ST APRIL, 2022**

(a) : The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) Act, 2020 came into force with effective from 11th June, 2021 to regulate the education and practice of Indian System of Medicine (including Sowa-Rigpa). NCISM shall maintain a National Register for practitioners of Indian System of Medicine. As per the records available with the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM), there are approximately two hundred institutionally qualified Sowa- Rigpa practitioners available in Himachal Pradesh and 45 practitioners in the areas of Leh, Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) to (d): The sub-section(1) of Section 33 of the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) Act, 2020, specifies that “any person who has a recognised qualification in Indian System of Medicine under this Act and qualifies the National Exit Test held under section 15 shall be granted a licence to practice Indian System of Medicine and shall have his name and qualifications enrolled first in the State Register and subsequently in the National Register maintained under this Act”. Accordingly, the persons having recognized qualifications of Sowa-Rigpa are enrolled in the concerned State Registers and are entitled to practice Sowa-Rigpa system of medicine. Vide Gazette notification no. S.O 1672(E) dated 5th April, 2018, Ministry of Ayush has included the qualifications namely, Bachelor of Tibetan Medicine and Surgery(BTMS), Bachelor of Sowa-Rigpa Medicine and Surgery(BSRMS), Doctor of Sowa-Rigpa (MD/MS), Bachelor of Sowa-Rigpa Medicine and Surgery(BSMS) in the Second Schedule of the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 (now NCISM Act, 2020). Further, vide Gazette notification No. F. 5-1/2017(CPP)-II dated 14th October, 2021, University Grants Commission (UGC) has included the Bachelor of Sowa-Rigpa Medicine and Surgery(BSRMS) degree in the Specification of Degrees under the University Grants Commission.

For registration of the traditionally trained Sowa-Rigpa practitioners there is no provision under the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Act, 2020. However, the rights of traditionally trained Sowa-Rigpa practitioners are protected vide sub-section 3(c) of section 34 of the NCISM Act, 2020 which specifies that “the right of a person who has been practicing Indian System of Medicine for not less than five years in State, to continue to practice in that State in which a State Register of Indian System of Medicine is not maintained as on the date of commencement of this Act.”.

(e) & (f): In the year, 2019, National Institute for Sowa-Rigpa, at Leh, Union Territory of Ladakh has been established with the mandate to provide quality education and research for Sowa- Rigpa system of medicine and also to undertake interdisciplinary education and research programmes of Sowa- Rigpa in collaboration with premier national and international Institutes and facilitate integration of different system of medicine. The objectives of the National Institute for Sowa-Rigpa, at Leh are as under:

- (i) To provide quality education, research and health care in Sowa- Rigpa.
- (ii) To provide more trained manpower in Sowa- Rigpa.
- (iii) To develop as Centre of Excellence and focus on fundamental Research, Drug Safety evaluation, Standardization, quality control and scientific validation of Sowa-Rigpa.
- (iv) To impart reorientation training and continuing medical education to Sowa-Rigpa Physicians and Teachers.
- (v) To generate awareness about the potential and strength of Sowa- Rigpa and to promote growth and development of Sowa- Rigpa.
- (vi) To produce undergraduates, post graduates and Ph.D in Sowa- Rigpa.

Further, the Ministry of Ayush is implementing a Central Sector Scheme namely AYURGYAN Scheme (*erstwhile* Extra Mural Research Scheme), wherein “Research & Innovation in AYUSH” is a component of the said scheme. Under this component, funds are provided for Research activities in all stream of AYUSH (including Sowa Rigpa).
