

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AYUSH

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO.319

TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2025

Recognition of Ayurveda Practitioners and Researchers

*319. Shri Ravindra Shukla *Alias* Ravi Kishan:

Shri Naba Charan Majhi:

Will the Minister of AYUSH

be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to expand the reach of Ayurveda and confer recognition with award to encourage emerging Ayurveda practitioners and researchers, State/UT-wise particularly in Jalgaon Parliamentary constituency of Maharashtra;
- (b) the corrective measures being taken to enhance the infrastructure for Ayurveda research, education and clinical practice in rural and urban areas of the country, State/UT-wise particularly in Jalgaon Parliamentary constituency of Maharashtra;
- (c) whether the Government plans to introduce a mentorship programme involving the awardees to guide young Ayurveda practitioners and researchers with a special focus on Maharashtra particularly in Jalgaon Parliamentary constituency and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has any special plans to promote Ayurveda research and healthcare infrastructure in Haryana, specifically in the Bhiwani-Mahendergarh Parliamentary constituency and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of initiatives being taken to promote Ayurveda among the youth and encourage research and innovation in Maharashtra especially in Jalgaon Parliamentary constituency?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF AYUSH

(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House

The Statement referred in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.319 for 21.03.2025

(a) and (b) Ayurveda is a recognized system of medicine under the Ministry of Ayush and various initiatives are undertaken to encourage emerging Ayurveda practitioners and researchers to promote its education, research and practice. National Dhanwantari Ayurveda Award, instituted by the Ministry of Ayush, recognizes individuals who have made exceptional contributions to Ayurveda in research, practice, and propagation, and is presented annually during Ayurveda Day celebrations on Dhanvantari Jayanti (Dhanteras). The education and practice of Ayurveda are regulated under the provisions of the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Act, 2020. Currently, there are 562 Ayurveda colleges in the country, including 132 colleges in Maharashtra. The Government has set up an apex Central Research Council namely, the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), which operates 30 institutes/centres across the country.

Further, public health is a State subject, accordingly, the responsibility of enhancing Ayurveda infrastructure in rural and urban areas, including in the Jalgaon Parliamentary Constituency, primarily lies with the respective State/UT Governments. However, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the National Ayush Mission (NAM), the Government provides financial assistance for setting up Ayush educational institutions in States where the availability of such institutions is inadequate, particularly in the Government sector. Accordingly, State/UT Governments can avail themselves for this financial assistance by submitting suitable proposals through their State Annual Action Plans (SAAPs), as per the provisions outlined in the NAM guidelines.

(c) The Ministry of Ayush is implementing the AYURGYAN Scheme to enhance and develop capacity in the Ayush healthcare sector at the country level. It seeks to improve health practices through sustainable Ayush methods, encourage professionals to undergo professional orientation, update knowledge of teachers and doctors, and promote the use of information technology for disseminating Ayush developments. The scheme also focuses on encouraging research and development in priority areas to validate claims and enhance the acceptability of Ayush approaches and drugs in the global market. This scheme addresses the diverse needs of Ayush practitioners, educators, researchers, and entrepreneurs, developing a

comprehensive approach to elevate the Ayush systems through education, research, and innovation.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Ayush has a mandate for coordination and promotion of research and development including assistance therefor in Ayurveda systems of Health Care. The Ministry of Ayush is implementing a Central Sector Scheme for Promotion of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) in Ayush. The Scheme is meant for creation of awareness amongst the citizens about the efficacy of the Ayush Systems, their cost-effectiveness and the availability of herbs used for prevention and treatment of common ailments at their door steps through various channels including the production of audio-visual educational material to achieve the objective of health for all, dissemination of proven results of Research & Development work conducted in Ayush Systems at National/ State level through fair and providing a forum where horizontal and vertical interaction among stakeholders of Ayush Systems can take place through conferences, seminars and fairs/melas at State and National levels and encourage stakeholders to participate in them.

The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) an autonomous body under Ministry of Ayush works towards the scientific advancement of Ayurveda through research, clinical care, and public outreach. In Maharashtra, CCRAS operates through its peripheral institutes, namely the Central Ayurveda Research Institute (CARI), Mumbai, Regional Ayurveda Research Institute (RARI), Nagpur and Regional Ayurveda Research Institute (RARI), Pune. These institutes actively engage in clinical services and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) initiatives to enhance awareness about Ayurveda.

To promote Ayurveda among the youth and encourage research and innovation, CCRAS has undertaken several initiatives. The Council disseminates Ayurvedic knowledge through electronic and print media in English, Hindi, and regional languages. It actively participates in National/State-level Arogya Melas, health camps, exhibitions and outreach programs such as the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) Research Program and the Tribal Health Care Research Program (THCRP). Additionally, the CCRAS website serves as a repository of IEC materials and is hyperlinked to other relevant platforms for wider accessibility.

All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi an autonomous body under the Ministry of Ayush has set up an incubation centre i.e All India Institute of Ayurveda -Incubation Centre for Ayurveda Innovation and Entrepreneurship (AIIA-iCAINE) to support Ayush-

related Start-ups and Entrepreneurs. AIIA-iCAINE has provided mentorship and various clinical facilities to the start-ups at AIIA, New Delhi.

The Ayurveda Startup Grand Challenge is designed to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the Ayush sector. The key stakeholders involved are the Ministry of Ayush, AIIA, Start Up India and Invest India. Grants and financial assistance are provided to startups that present innovative solutions and products in the Ayush sector. Startups get opportunities to connect with potential investors, industry leaders, and other entrepreneurs through various events and workshops. Winners and promising startups receive recognition which can enhance their credibility and market visibility. Fiscal incentives in the form of cash prizes are provided to the first three toppers.

To nurture research and to motivate Ayurveda students to pursue research as a career, inculcate research aptitude, and establish a foundation for high-quality research in Ayurveda, CCRAS is implementing the following programs:

- i. Studentship Programme for Ayurveda Research Ken (SPARK): Financial support to Ayurveda undergraduates to promote interest and aptitude for research.
- ii. Ayush Ph.D. Fellowship: Fellowship support for research scholars.
- iii. Post-Doctoral Fellowship (PDF): Support for advanced Ayurveda research.
- iv. SMART Programme: Facilitating integrative research between Ayurveda academia and tertiary care hospitals.
- v. CCRAS-AGNI (2023-24): Promoting evidence-based validation of Ayurveda practices in five categories, including treatment, formulations, and instruments.
