

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4807
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD MARCH, 2018**

BRIDGE COURSE FOR AYUSH DOCTORS

**4807. SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI:
SHRI BHARAT SINGH:
KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE:**

Will the Minister of **AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH)** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to conduct a bridge course for AYUSH doctors to allow them to practice allopathy to address the shortage of doctors in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the norms fixed for determining the qualification and scientific temperament of doctors who pass the bridge course and the time by which such a bridge course for AYUSH doctors is likely to be started;

(c) whether it is a fact that AYUSH and modern medicine have distinct approaches and methods of practice and cannot be merged and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government plans to integrate AYUSH as a complementary aspect of the modern system, as Ayurveda is based on the principle of harmony and balancing of three Doshas, Vata, Pitta and Kapha; and

(e) if so, whether the Government plans to reconsider the concerns of Ayurveda practitioners with regard to undertake a short bridge course and receive an official licence to practice modern medicine?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA,
YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY
(SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)**

(a) & (b): Under National Health Mission (NHM), a Bridge Programme in Community Health for Nurses was designed and developed with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). Subsequently, a common Bridge Programme for Nurses and Ayurveda practitioners was approved by IGNOU. The Bridge Course has already been rolled out in States as per proposal received from States.

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The Ayurveda practitioners and Staff Nurses after being trained in primary care and public Health competencies through the bridge course are envisaged to be placed as Mid-Level care providers in Sub Health Centres to be strengthened as Health and wellness Centres.

(c) to (e): AYUSH and modern systems of medicine have distinct approaches and methods of practice. However, there are areas in public health where these systems of medicine can function in mutual co-existence in an integrated manner. The National Policy on Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy - 2002, envisages integration of AYUSH with the Healthcare Delivery System including Ayurveda. Mainstreaming of AYUSH is one of the strategies in National Health Mission (NHM) as well which seeks to provide accessible, affordable and quality health care in order to improve the existing health care delivery system. Accordingly, the Central Government adopted a strategy of co-location of AYUSH facilities at Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs) and District Hospitals (DHs), thus enabling choice to the patients for different systems of medicines under single window. The engagement of AYUSH Doctors/paramedics and their training are supported by the Department of Health & Family Welfare, while the support for AYUSH infrastructure, equipment/furniture and medicines are provided by Ministry of AYUSH under shared responsibilities.

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