

Minister bats for easing of allopathy drug norms

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Aurangabad: Union minister of state Shripad Naik on Thursday asserted the need to allow ayurveda, yoga & naturopathy, unani, siddha and homoeopathy (Ayush) practitioners in rural areas to prescribe allopathy medicines to a certain extent, especially in emergencies.

“But, for that, they must clear some crash course to be able to prescribe allopathy medicines,” said the Ayush minister (independent charge) during a visit to The Times of India and Maharashtra Times offices in the city.

The minister also said that his ministry would seek budgetary provision of Rs 5,000 crore in the upcoming Budget. Currently, Rs 1,400 crore budgetary provision was made and the ministry has made use of the entire allocation, Naik said.

Further clarifying his stand on the proposed ‘bridge course’ that would enable homeopathy practitioners to prescribe modern (allopathy) medicine with certain conditions, he said that “this is what people require particularly in rural and tribal areas, where allopathy practitioners hardly go.”