

Chapter – 8

INDIAN MEDICINE AND HOMOEOPATHY

8.1. The Government of Tamil Nadu is committed to provide full opportunity for the growth and development of Indian Systems of Medicine and utilization of the potentiality, strength and revival of their glory. A multi pronged approach is being adopted for achieving the objects for the development and optimum utilization of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy by the way of bringing these systems into the mainstream and to gainfully utilize the vast resources which exist in the sector towards enhancing the outreach of health care in an accessible, acceptable, affordable and qualitative manner. The ultimate goal of the State Government is for making availability of Siddha, Ayurveda, Unani, Yoga and Naturopathy and Homoeopathy as an adjunct or better alternative to allopathy medical treatment to the public at large so that the people can exercise their choice in accessing the health service.

8.2. The Indian Systems of Medicine and the modern system of medicine can play a complementary role. The Government of Tamil Nadu is taking all efforts to provide one ISM Practitioner in every Primary Health Centre in a Phased manner. During the year 2008-09 also, the Government have proposed to sanction 10 wings at PHCs. Therefore, ISM practitioners will be available in 479 PHCs including the 10 wings proposed for the year 2008-2009.

8.3. Education:

8.3.1. For proper development of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy the Central Councils have implemented various educational regulations to ensure minimum standards of education. The strategy on education and training facilities in ISM is two pronged. (i.e.). The Government itself have started Medical Colleges of ISM. Private colleges are also allowed so long as they conform to the required standards. The annual intake for the Graduate Course in Indian Medicine under the Government colleges and Private colleges is 246 and 860 respectively. The Post Graduate Course is offered only in the System of Siddha in Government Colleges and the annual intake is 80. The Courses and the intakes offered by these institutions are detailed below:

Nature of Institution	Siddha	Ayurveda	Unani	Homoeopathy	Yoga & Naturopathy	Total
Under Graduate						
Government	150		26	50	20	246
Private	150	160		400	150	860
Post Graduate						
Government	80	-	-	-	-	80
Private	Nil	-	-	-	-	

8.3.2. In addition, the Government Ayurveda Medical College and Hospital at Nagercoil in Kanniyakumari District will start functioning from the academic year 2008-09 onwards. The facilities at the Government Siddha Medical College, Chennai and Palayamkottai, Government Homoeopathy Medical College, Thirumangalam, Govt. Unani Medical College, Chennai and Govt. Yoga and Naturopathy Medical College, Chennai are being upgraded as State Model Colleges with the Government of India assistance. Serious efforts are under way to avail maximum permissible grant of Rs.500 lakhs per college from Government of India.

8.4. Research:

Indian Systems of Medicine have been practised over centuries, and some of these treatment, therapies and drugs have unbroken traditions of acceptance and practice. In house research capabilities in the Department are limited. The approach is therefore to forge alliances with other institutions. A memorandum of understanding has been signed with Madras University to have collaborative work.

8.5. Standardisation:

Ensuring quality for various herbal medicines which are being prepared from different raw drugs in Indian Systems of Medicine is a major challenge. To ensure ISM drugs affordable safe and efficacious, the State Pharmacies have been modernized at a cost of Rs.130 lakhs provided by the Government of India. The pharmacy attached to TAMPCOL is being modernized. Similarly, the State Drug Testing Laboratory at Chennai has also been well equipped so that the standardization of ISM drugs and their quality are ensured.

8.6. Medical treatment:

At present there are 889 institutions in the State providing medical treatment under Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy, with an inpatient capacity of 989 beds. With a view to developing and popularizing the Indian Systems of medicine, the State Government is implementing Speciality Clinics in 17 District Head Quarters Hospitals at a cost of Rs.555.00 lakhs and in 151 Taluk Hospitals at a cost of Rs.1510.00 lakhs with the assistance of the Government of India. Proposals have been forwarded to Government of India for establishing Speciality Clinics in the rest of the District Head Quarters Hospitals and Primary Health Centres.

8.7. State Drug Licencing Authority for Indian Medicine:

The Government have issued orders separating the Licensing functions pertaining to Indian Systems of Medicine drugs from the Drugs Control department and vesting the same under the control of this department by creating a separate State Drug Licencing Authority (Indian Medicine). The State Drug Licencing Authority (Indian Medicine) has started functioning with effect from 29.11.07 under the control of this department. The District Siddha Medical Officers of this department have been appointed as Drug Inspectors as per the provision of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. All works connected with the inspection, sampling, and prosecution and licencing of Indian Systems of Medicine drugs are to be carried out by this department forthwith.

8.8. National Institute of Siddha:

The State Government has played a vital role in setting up of National Institute of Siddha at Tambaram which is a joint venture of Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu. It is established with the objective of imparting Post Graduate education in Siddha system and to provide medical care through Siddha system of medicine. This premier Institution is now engaged in promoting and propagating the science and art of Siddha.

8.9. Tamil Nadu Medicinal Plant Farms & Herbal Medicine Corporation Ltd. (TAMPCOL):

The authorized share capital of TAMPCOL is Rs.50.00 lakhs and its present paid up share capital is Rs.20.75 lakhs. TAMPCOL earned a profit of Rs 177.81 lakhs during 2006-2007. In the year 2006-2007 the Corporation has achieved a record turnover (unaudited) of Rs.

1191.90 lakhs. The Corporation is paying dividend since 1998-99 to the Government. TAMPOL has paid 100% dividend of Rs.20.75 lakhs to the Government for the year 2006-2007.

8.10. New schemes for the year 2008-2009:

1. Opening of ISM Wings in 10 Primary Health Centres at a cost of Rs.59.85 lakhs.
2. Creation of Office of State Licensing Authority for Indian Medicine at a cost of Rs.24.04 lakhs.