

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.171  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2021**

**GUIDELINES REGARDING RECKLESS INTAKE OF GILOY**

**171 SMT. SHANTA CHHETRI:**

Will the Minister of AYUSH be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that certain herbs and traditional medicines taken to ward off COVID-19 could cause severe harm as Mumbai doctors have found that in at least six patients with severe liver damage, each had a history of taking a concoction of herb *Tinospora cordifolia*, locally known as giloy;
- (b) whether Government has issued guidelines with regard to reckless use of giloy without expert advice; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA,  
YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY  
(SHRI MAHENDRABHAI MUNJAPARA)**

(a): Yes.

(b) & (c): After analysing the media report in Times of India, it was noticed that the authors of the study have not analysed the contents of the herb that the patients consumed. It becomes the responsibility of the authors to ascertain that the herb consumed by the patients is Giloy and not any other herb. To build upon the soundness, the authors should have taken the opinion of a botanist or should have consulted an Ayurveda expert. The newspaper article based its entire story on the much limited and misleading study without taking into account the voluminous reviews, robust studies that speak for the efficacy of Giloy and without due consultation of any reputed Ayurveda expert. The Ministry of Ayush have issued press brief through PIB. Times of India has also issued Ministry's rebuttal on 7.7.2021.

The Government has issued guidelines for Ayurveda preventive measures for self-care during the COVID-19 pandemic where Giloy was one of the ingredients of Ayush Kwath and Guduchi Ghanvati advised for promoting immunity. These guidelines are available on the website of the Ministry of Ayush at <https://www.ayush.gov.in/docs/Ayurveda%20Preventive%20Measures%20for%20self%20care%20during%20%20COVID-19%20Pandemic.pdf>.

Further, the Ministry of Ayush has also released "National Clinical Management Protocol based on Ayurveda and Yoga for management of COVID-19" and MoA has released practitioners guidelines that includes Giloy (*Tinospora Cordifolia*) in the context of treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 cases. It has also been advised to take the medicines under the supervision of a registered Ayush practitioner.