



P.K. PATHAK
Additional Secretary

Tel: 24651939
Fax: 24651954
Email: as-ayush@gov.in

भारत सरकार
आयुर्वेद, योग व प्राकृतिक चिकित्सा
यूनानी, सिद्ध एवं होम्योपैथी (आयुष) मंत्रालय
आयुष भवन, 'बी' ब्लॉक, जी.पी.ओ. कॉम्प्लेक्स,
आई.एन.ए., नई दिल्ली-110023

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY
UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH)
"AYUSH BHAWAN", B-BLOCK, GPO COMPLEX
INA, NEW DELHI-110023

D.O. No.Z-25023/09/2018-DCC(AYUSH)

Dated: 23rd March, 2020.

Subject:- Derogatory column by Mr Amit Verma – entitled 'Beware of quacks! Alternative medicine is injurious to health' published on page 25 of the Sunday Times, Capital Edition of 22nd March, 2020.

Dear Sri Jain

With utmost displeasure and deep concern this Ministry would like to object the above-mentioned article of the columnist Mr Amit Varma published on the day when whole country was observing Janta curfew on the call from Hon'ble Prime Minister to curb the emerging menace of Covid -19.

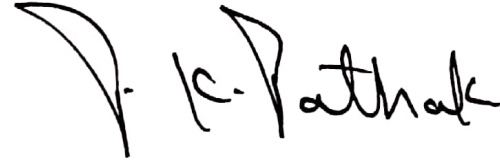
2. It is another such attempt from the Times of India newspaper to tarnish the credibility of AYUSH systems with arrogance, ignorance and negative bias but with a difference that the columnist claiming to be Rationalist has written irrational, unfounded and unbecoming article about officially recognized and regulated medical systems of which he does not have the expertise not even the general knowledge. His statements in the article are not only unreasonable but also misleading to the readers and defamatory to the Ministry. In what capacity and on what basis he spoke to abolish the Ministry? Is he a medical person or scientist capable to analyse the potential and merit of different medical systems? He should have reviewed the literature, seen the evidences, gone through the Government of India policies for healthcare and dialogued with medical scholars before writing such kind of demeaning article and devaluating the healthcare potential of AYUSH systems and labeling their practitioners as quacks.

3. As a so called professional columnist Mr Amit Varma does not seem aware of the facts that the country has more than 702 AYUSH colleges imparting 5 and ½ year degree courses and 3 year postgraduate courses, about 8 lakh registered practitioners, more than 28,000 public dispensaries, about 3200 hospitals; more than 18000 co-located facilities in PHCs, CHCs and District Hospitals and about 9000 licensed drugs manufacturing units. AYUSH education, practice and drugs are regulated under Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 and Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 respectively. Government has set up dedicated Regulatory bodies, Research Councils, National Institutes, Pharmacopoeia Commission and Pharmacopoeia Laboratories for quality control and focused development of AYUSH healthcare services and medicinal products.

4. Considering the adverse reaction article has generated in AYUSH fraternity and in view of the aforesaid factual position, Times of India Foundation/Management is urged to take Mr Amit Varma to task for the derogatory act and ask him to apologize in the same column immediately. The Times of India Foundation must publish an apology in the same newspaper for such irresponsible reporting from Mr Amit Varma and shirk from allowing such articles against AYUSH in future. Ministry would lodge a formal complaint in this regard to Press Council of India and other concerned agencies, if the apologies are not tendered and rejoinder not published within a week.

With regards

Yours sincerely,



(P.K. Pathak)

Shri Vineet Jain,
Managing Director and Chief Editor,
Times of India,
The Times of India Building
7, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg
New Delhi-110 002.