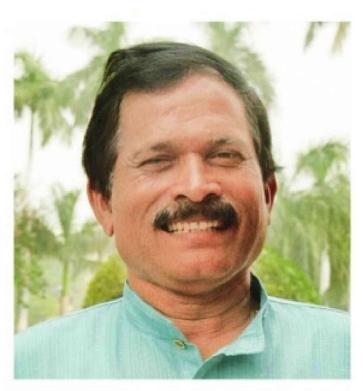


## 'THERE ARE 7.20 LAKH AYUSH PRACTITIONERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY'



SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK
MINISTER OF STATE FOR AYUSH

WHAT ARE THE STEPS TAKEN BY THE MINISTRY TO HIGHLIGHT THE BENEFITS OF YOGA? The National Health Editor's conference on yoga this year will provide an insight into the scientific aspects of yoga and its role in managing stress and improving the overall health of an individual.

HOW DO YOU INTEND TO REVITALISE LOCAL HEALTH TRADITIONS? The Ayush 2002 policy of the government has identified revitalisation of LHTs as one of the thrust areas. There will be a midterm appraisal of the scheme. LHTs have traditionally played an important role in primary healthcare needs.

WHAT IS THE MAIN OBJECTIVE BEHIND REVITALISATION? Our main aim is identify local health practices and practitioners in various parts of the country and document their practices relating to home remedies, food and nutrition, midwifery, bone setting, and other such local traditions.

HOW DO YOU INTEND TO PROMOTE AYUSH? There are approximately 7.20 lakh AYUSH practitioners located in urban, semi-urban and rural areas. There is a need to increase awareness about AYUSH's strength in solving community health problems.