

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.449
ANSWERED ON 25.06.2019

DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICAL TOURISM

449. SHRI BINOY VISWAM:

Will the Minister of **TOURISM** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any policies to regulate private medical sector in medical tourism of the country?
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has any data on foreigners' visit to India for medical purpose;
- (d) if so, the details thereof of the last three years; and
- (e) whether any policies have been adopted by Government to attract foreigners for medical tourism as it is a substantial source of revenue and foreign exchange?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a) and (b): As per information provided by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, health is a State subject. However, the Government of India has enacted the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act 2010 for registration and regulation of the clinical establishments (both Government and Private) with a view to prescribe minimum standard of facilities and services provided by them. The implementation and enforcement of the said Act falls within the purview of the States/Union Territory Governments.

(c) and (d): As per information provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, the details of foreign tourist arrivals in India during the last three years for medical purpose are as under:

Year	Number of Foreign Tourist arrivals for medical purpose
2015	2,33,918
2016	4,27,014
2017	4,95,056

(e): Realizing the potential to develop and promote Wellness and Medical Tourism as a niche product in the country, the Ministry of Tourism has formulated guidelines for the promotion of Medical Tourism. As per the guidelines following assistance is provided to eligible stakeholders:

- Financial Assistance for participating in fairs/events/road shows approved by the Ministry in the overseas markets under the Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme.

- Financial Assistance in the ratio 50:50 for making publicity and promotional material subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs.10.00 Lakh.
- Financial Assistance up to a maximum of Rs.25.00 Lakh on 50:50 sharing basis for organizing Wellness & Medical Tourism promotion shows.
- Permission for the use of Incredible India logo for the Wellness & Medical Tourism promotion events, films, literature etc.
- Financial support for training courses focused on skill providing, skill up-gradation and skill certification for the persons engaged in Wellness & Medical Tourism sector as per the Capacity Building for Service Providers (CBSP) Scheme guidelines of the Ministry of Tourism.
- Provision of space to Wellness and/or Medical Tourism Associations at major international fairs for promoting Wellness & Medical Tourism at cost.

In addition to above, the Ministry of Tourism has taken various steps to boost medical tourism which inter-alia include:

- Launch of campaigns in the international markets including for medical tourism under the Incredible India brand-line; conducting Road Shows, Know India Seminars etc.
- Ministry produces brochures, CDs, films and other publicity materials for promotion of Medical & Health Tourism. Medical tourism is being promoted on social media across various platforms.
- Department of Commerce and Services Export Promotion Council have launched a Healthcare Portal www.indiahealthcaretourism.com, as a single source platform providing comprehensive information of medical travelers on the top healthcare institutions in the country in various languages.
- Government of India launched e-Tourist Visa in September, 2014 for easing of the visa regime has been expanded to include medical visits as well. Medical and Medical Attendant Visa have been introduced to ease the travel process of medical tourists.

In order to provide dedicated institutional framework to take forward medical tourism, a 'National Medical and Wellness Tourism Board' has been constituted which works as an umbrella organization that promotes this segment of tourism in an organized manner.
