

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.947
ANSWERED ON 27.07.2021

DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICAL TOURISM IN THE COUNTRY

947. SHRI BHASKAR RAO NEKKANTI:

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

- (a) whether there exist any policies for the regulation of the private medical sector with respect to medical tourism;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) details of the financial assistance granted to the Wellness Tourist Service Providers and the Medical Tourist Service Providers under the Marketing Development Assistance Scheme during the last four years;
- (d) whether any COVID-19-centric measures have been taken for the promotion of medical and wellness tourism; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (e): In order to create a robust framework and synergy amongst the Central Government Ministries, State Governments and Private Sector for promoting India as a Medical and Wellness tourism destination through a dedicated agency to promote Medical and wellness tourism in India, a draft National Strategy and Roadmap for Medical and Wellness Tourism has been formulated by Ministry of Tourism. In order to make the document more comprehensive, Ministry of Tourism has invited feedback/ comments/ suggestions on the draft National Strategy and Roadmap from identified Central Ministries, all the State Governments/UT Administrations and industry stakeholders.

Ministry of Tourism has taken several steps to promote India as a Medical and Health Tourism Destination, which are as follows:

- i. In order to provide dedicated institutional framework to take forward the cause of promotion of Medical Tourism, Wellness Tourism and Yoga, Ayurveda Tourism and any other format of Indian system of medicine covered by Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH), Ministry has constituted a National Medical & Wellness Tourism Board with the Hon'ble Minister (Tourism) as its Chairman. The Board works as an umbrella organization that promotes this segment of tourism in an organized manner.
- ii. Brochure, CDs and other publicity material to promote Medical and health tourism have been produced by the Ministry and the same are widely distributed and circulated for publicity in target markets.
- iii. Medical and health tourism have been specifically promoted at various international platforms such as World Travel Mart, London, ITB, Berlin, Arabian Travel Mart etc.

- iv. 'Medical Visa' has been introduced, which can be given for specific purpose to foreign travelers coming to India for medical treatment. 'E- Medical Visa' has also been introduced for 166 countries.
- v. Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance under Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme to Medical/Wellness Tourism Service Providers and Wellness Centres accredited by NABH for participation in Medical/Tourism Fairs, Medical Conferences, Wellness Conferences, Wellness Fairs and allied Road Shows.

Details of MDA/ Financial Assistance granted to the Wellness Tourist Service Providers and the Medical Tourist Service Providers under MDA Scheme for last four Years are as under:

Year	Amount (In Rupees)
2017-18	37,75,000/-
2018-19	17,20,499/-
2019-20	1,40,311/-
2020-21	25,38,659/-
