

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2899
ANSWERED ON 07.08.2023**

DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICAL TOURISM

2899.SHRI DIBYENDU ADHIKARI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has proposed to develop medical tourism in the country;**
- (b) if so, the action taken by the Government for development of medical tourists of the country and the action taken with Ministry of Railways for special services to Indian medical beneficiaries therefor;**
- (c) the action taken by the Government in offering medical treatment packages to customers at competitive prices therein; and**
- (d) the proposal of the Government to develop medical tourism for the people from Kolkata, Guwahati and other Eastern and North-Eastern parts of India who need to travel to the South India as medical tourists thereof?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (d): While promotion and development of Tourism, including Medical Tourism, is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations, the Ministry of Tourism in order to boost Medical Tourism in the country, has formulated a National Strategy and Roadmap for Medical and Wellness Tourism. The Strategy has identified the following key pillars:

- (i) Develop a brand for India as a wellness destination**
- (ii) Strengthen the ecosystem for medical and wellness tourism**

- (iii) Enable digitalization by setting up Online Medical Value Travel (MVT) Portal**
- (iv) Enhancement of accessibility for Medical Value Travel**
- (v) Promoting Wellness Tourism**
- (vi) Governance and Institutional Framework**

However, as part of its on-going activities, Ministry of Tourism, releases global print, electronic and online media campaigns in important and potential markets overseas, under the 'Incredible India' brand-line, to promote various tourism destinations and products of the country. Digital promotions are also regularly undertaken through the Social Media accounts of the Ministry on different themes including the theme of Medical Tourism.

The Government of India liberalized the e-Tourist Visa Scheme pursuant to the cabinet approval on 30.11.2016 and the e-Tourist Visa (eTV) scheme was renamed to e-visa Scheme and, at present, it has e-medical Visa and e-Medical Attendant Visa as sub-categories of e-visa.

In the case of e-Medical Visa and for e-Medical Attendant Visa, triple entry is permitted and extension may be granted up to 6 months on case to case basis on merits of each case by the Foreigners Regional Registration Officers (FRRO)/Foreigners Registration Officer (FRO) concerned. Medical Attendant Visa was co-terminus with the validity of the principal e-visa holder.

Further, Union Ministry of Health is coordinating with other Ministries and stakeholders viz. Hospitals, Medical Value Travel (MVT) facilitators, Insurance Companies, NABH etc. to promote medical value travel in the country.
