

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4035
ANSWERED ON:09.04.2003
PACKAGE TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have a proposal to make `India the global health care destination`;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to achieve the above objective;
- (c) whether any package is proposed to be introduced to improve country`s health care system; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. The steps taken consist of encouraging private participation in healthcare services in general and making available fiscal and other incentives for the overall improvement of the healthcare system in the country.

(c)&(d): The package of benefits include, inter-alia, concessions in income tax to such financial institutions as provide long term capital to private hospitals with 100 beds or more; increase in rate of depreciation in respect of life saving medical equipment facilitate up-gradation and replacement; reduction in customs and excise duty on life saving equipment and a large number of life saving drugs; encouraging foreign direct investment and liberalizing it further by putting almost all items/activities on the automatic route and allowing certain percentage of imports of specified items against foreign exchange earnings obtained from provision of health services.