

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:216
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2005
PROMOTION OF HEALTH TOURISM
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

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

- (a) whether Health Tourism has enormous potential to create jobs and bring in foreign exchange;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to start a website and create a database to promote Health Tourism in India;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government also proposes to set up a National Accreditation Health Board to accredit hospitals in order to ensure quality health care; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 216 FOR 7TH DECEMBER, 2005.

(a) Medical Tourism in India has great potential due to strong India's comparative advantages on cost, quality and services in the health care sector. This is likely to generate increasing demand for healthcare facilities resulting in creation of additional infrastructure, employment generation and development of medical manpower. Increase in tourist inflow for medical purposes will also enhance our foreign exchange earnings.

(b)&(c): The Ministry of Tourism on their website has already given details relating to Wellness Tourism which is one aspect of Medical Tourism. This site contains information on Ayurveda, Hi-tech Healing, Yoga, etc. giving details of treatment programmes, cost of facilities and list of select hospitals. A new visa category, i.e. Medical Visa to facilitate foreign nationals who wish to utilize specialized medical healthcare facilities available in India has been introduced by the Ministry of Home Affairs. This will enable collection of data relating to flow of foreign tourists for medical purposes.

(d)&(e): The Central Government is examining the possibility of a regulation for hospitals, nursing homes and other clinical establishments to ensure quality healthcare services including norms for assessment, accreditation, inspection, certification, regulation of such clinical establishments as well as maintenance of records.