

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2102

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007

PROMOTION OF MEDICAL TOURISM

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

- (a) whether Indian Healthcare System is cheapest or comparatively cheaper in the world;
- (b) if so, the number of people from abroad visited India for treatment to various ailments and the revenue generated by the Government through medical tourism during the last three years;
- (c) whether this factor is helpful for promoting Medical Tourism in India;
- (d) if so, the extent to which it has achieved indicating the State-wise details of such ventures;
- (e) the initiatives taken or planned by the Government to attract more patients from all over the world to India;
- (f) the contribution made by Ayurveda in this regard, State-wise particularly in Kerala; and
- (g) the measures taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to boost medical tourism?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a)&(b) : Yes Sir, the allopathic and AYUSH systems are cheaper in India compared to developed countries. Although no information is maintained about the exact number of people from abroad visited India for treatment of various ailments, however, according to some studies, about 150,000 foreigners sought treatment in a year in private hospitals. The information about revenue generation is not available.

(c)to(g) :Yes Sir, The hospitals in private sector are providing treatment under medical tourism. No State-wise details are available. For providing better cost effective health care services, Quality Council of India started accreditation work of hospitals. The Government has introduced a new category of "Medical Visa" ('M'-Visa), which can be given for specific purpose to foreign tourists coming to India for medical treatment. For Accreditation of Ayurveda/Panchkarma centers, the detailed guidelines have been issued by the Government. The State of Kerala has implemented an accreditation mechanism for registration of Ayurveda and Yoga based centers/resort. The Government is supporting establishment of AYUSH facilities in allopathic hospitals also besides conducting national and international events for showcasing strength and products of AYUSH systems for generating public awareness in India and abroad.