

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4644  
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2010  
SHORT DURATION AILMENTS  
Bajwa Shri Partap Singh;Yadav Shri Sharad

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

- (a) whether the short duration ailments has increased almost by four times in the country during the last two decades;
- (b) if so, the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether cost of healthcare has also increased over the last few years in the country;
- (d) if so, whether Medical tourism is one of the contributory factors;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the measures taken to make healthcare easily accessible and affordable to the downtrodden people?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SHRI DINESH TRVEDI)

- (a) No.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) & (e) Medical tourism is not a statistically significant contributory factor for increase in cost of healthcare.
- (f) Government of India launched National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) on 12.4.2005 to support the State Governments/Union Territories to rejuvenate and strengthen the public health care system to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary health care facilities in rural areas, especially to the poor and vulnerable sections of the population.

Ministry is also augmenting the secondary and tertiary sector health facilities by setting up of more AIIMS like institutions and upgrading existing medical colleges across the country.

The Government also provides direct financial assistance to patients who are living below the poverty line and suffering from major life threatening diseases. Under the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi, this assistance helps the patients receive medical treatment at any of the super specialty hospitals/institutions or other government hospitals.