

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:96
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2011
MEDICAL HEALTH TOURISM
Bais Shri Ramesh;Singh Shri Ravneet

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the medical health tourism projects poised for the grant of Central financial assistance from various State Governments during the last three years alongwith the follow up action taken by the Union Government thereon, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to allocate additional funds to the State Governments for the development of medical health tourism in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Union Government to boost medical health tourism in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHA)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.96 TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2011 REGARDING MEDICAL HEALTH TOURISM.

(a) to (b): Development and promotion of tourism including medical health tourism is primarily undertaken by State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to States/Union Territory Administrations for projects identified by them, subject to adherence to scheme guidelines, availability of funds and inter-se priority. No project relating to medical health tourism has been received in the Ministry.

(c): Does not arise.

(d): The Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance under the Market Development Assistance Scheme (MDA) to approved medical tourism service providers i.e. representatives of hospitals accredited by Joint Commission International (JCI) and National Accreditation Board of Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH) and medical tourism facilitators (travel agents/tour operators). The Ministry also provides assistance under this scheme to approved wellness centres i.e. representatives of wellness centres accredited by NABH or the State Governments. The MDA assistance is for participation in medical/tourism fairs/medical conferences/wellness conferences/ wellness fairs and allied road shows.

The Ministry of Tourism has formulated guidelines for Wellness tourism. These guidelines address various issues including inter-alia making available quality publicity material, training and capacity building for the service providers and participation in international & domestic wellness related events. In order to address the issue concerning the mushrooming of wellness centres, the guidelines for accreditation of wellness centres have been developed by National Board for Accreditation of Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH) in consultation with the Department of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH) and released during the workshop on Wellness tourism organized by the Ministry of Tourism in February 2011. A series of sensitization workshops are being held across the country to sensitize the wellness centres about the importance of the accreditation mechanism and the various promotional efforts of the Ministry of Tourism.

In addition, the steps taken by the Government to promote medical health tourism include promotion in overseas markets through road shows, participation in travel marts, production of brochures, CDs, films and other publicity material.