

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1191
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2012
MEDICAL TOURISM
Satpathy Shri Tathagata

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there have been any changes in the policies regarding the doctors and hospitals allowed to participate under the Medical Tourism agreement;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the States which have been benefited the most from Medical Tourism;
- (d) whether the practice is likely to be extended to other States for economic progress; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI)

(a): In order to promote Medical Tourism in the country, Government has extended the Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme to include Medical Tourism in its purview in February, 2009. Financial support under this Scheme is provided to approved Medical Tourism Service Providers, i.e. representatives of Hospitals accredited by Joint Commission for International Accredited Hospitals (JCI) and National Accreditation Board of Hospitals (NABH) and Medical Tourism facilitators (Travel Agents/Tour Operators) approved by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and engaged in Medical Tourism subject to adherence to scheme guidelines and availability of funds. No changes in the policy on MDA have been made. However, the Ministry does not have any agreement with any organization/body/entity on Medical Tourism.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) to (e): The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, along with State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and other stakeholders promote Medical Tourism as a niche product in the international markets. The specific promotion of Medical and Wellness Tourism is also done by Ministry of Tourism along with the State Governments including at various international travel events and organizing road shows in potential markets. In addition, promotion is also done through the Incredible India campaign.