

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1790
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2013
MEDICAL HEALTH TOURISM
Dias Dr. Charles;Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government implements medical/health tourism under the Marketing Development Assistance scheme in the country;
- (b) if so, the details and guidelines thereof along with the project proposals approved and funds sanctioned thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the mechanism available with the Government to ascertain that the health care promised by health tourism centres are scientific and proper;
- (d) whether the Government has taken note that tourists are being cheated by misleading publicity by some tourist operators;
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (f) the measures being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for promotion of medical/ health tourism in the country along with its promotion in foreign countries to boost tourists inflow?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance under its Market Development Assistance (MDA) scheme for promotion of Medical & Wellness Tourism in the overseas markets to the following eligible stakeholders:

- (i) Representatives of Hospitals accredited by the Joint Commission International (JCI) or the National Accreditation Board of Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH).
- (ii) Representatives of Wellness Centres accredited by the State Governments or AYUSH - NABH.
- (iii) Representatives of Medical and Wellness Tourism facilitators i.e., Travel Agents and Tour Operators approved by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

Under the scheme, assistance up to Rs. 2 lakh is given to the eligible stakeholders for meeting costs towards participation in approved events and international airfare. Financial assistance under the MDA scheme is provided subject to adherence to the scheme guidelines and availability of funds.

During the last three years and current year up to 30th June, 2013, a sum of Rs. 48,88,572/- has been reimbursed to the eligible stakeholders under the scheme. The details of funds released are given in the Annexure.

(c) & (d): Under the MDA scheme, financial assistance by the Ministry of Tourism is given only to the representatives of Hospitals accredited by Joint Commission International (JCI), or the National Accreditation Board of Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH); representatives of Wellness Centres accredited by State Governments or AYUSH – NABH; and Medical Tourism facilitators i.e., Travel Agents and Tour Operators approved by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India subject to adherence to the scheme guidelines and availability of funds.

No instance of cheating by the Hospitals or Wellness Centres or Medical Tourism Facilitators to whom the Ministry of Tourism has extended financial assistance under the MDA scheme has come to the notice of the Ministry of Tourism.

(e): Does not arise.

(f): The Ministry of Tourism holds regular interactions with various stakeholders engaged in Medical and Wellness Tourism. The Ministry of Tourism also, inter alia, organizes road shows in the overseas markets, participates in travel marts, produces brochures, CDs, films and other publicity material for promotion of Medical & Wellness Tourism.