

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1727

ANSWERED ON:22.07.2014

MEDICAL TOURISM

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Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the guidelines followed by the Government in regard to health/medical tourism along with the financial assistance provided to the medical tourism service providers during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) the number of foreign tourists who visited the country on health/medical tourism and the revenue generated therefrom during the above period;
- (c) the estimated revenue likely to be generated through health/medical tourism in the coming years; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for the development and promotion of health/medical tourism to boost inflow of foreign tourists in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK)

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

(i) Representatives of Hospitals accredited by 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 or NABH.

(iii) Representatives of medical 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.2.00 lakh is given to the eligible stakeholders as stated above for meeting the cost of international airfare and for construction of booth, space rentals, electricity and water charges incurred for participation in the approved events. The 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, 2014, a sum of Rs.1,15,37,282/- has been reimbursed to the eligible stakeholders under the scheme. The details of funds released are given in the Annexure.

(b) & (c): The number of foreign tourists who came for medical treatment during 2011 and 2012 was 138802 and 171021 respectively. The Ministry of Tourism, however does not compile the figures of revenue generated through tourists coming for medical purposes separately. However, Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs) through tourism in India during the years 2011, 2012 and 2013 was Rs.77,591 crore, Rs.94,487 crore and Rs.1,07,671 crore, respectively.

(d): The development and promotion of tourism destinations and products is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration. However, the Ministry of Tourism promotes wellness and medical tourism for boosting inflow of foreign tourists in a holistic manner, inter alia, by running campaigns in the international markets under the Incredible India brand-line; conducting Road Shows, Know India Seminars; participating in major international tourism fairs and exhibitions and also supporting Events/Seminars/ Conferences which have focus on wellness and medical tourism.