

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2378
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2014
MEDICAL TOURISM
Bhuria Shri Dileep Singh

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has chalked out any special plan/scheme for the foreigner patients who come to India for their medical treatment;
- (b) the number of foreign tourists visited country on health/medical tourism and the revenue generated there from during the last three years; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for the development of medical tourism to boost inflow of foreign tourists in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a): Yes, Madam. The Government has introduced Medical Visa for the foreigner patients who come to India for their medical treatment.

(b): The number of foreign tourists, who visited the country for medical tourism during the years 2011, 2012 and 2013, was 138803, 171021 and 236898, respectively. The Ministry of Tourism does not compile the revenue generated through tourists coming for medical treatment. However, Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs) through tourism in India during 2011, 2012 and 2013 were Rs.77,591 Crore, Rs.94,487 Crore and Rs.1,07,671 Crore, respectively.

(c): Development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism as a part of its promotional activities releases campaigns in the international and domestic markets under the Incredible India brand-line, to promote various tourism destinations and products of India including health/medical tourism. In addition, the Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance under its Market Development Assistance (MDA) scheme for promotion of Wellness and 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 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.2.00 lakh is given to the eligible stakeholders as stated above for meeting the cost towards participation in the approved events and international airfare. The financial assistance under the MDA scheme is provided subject to adherence to the scheme guidelines and availability of funds.