

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2540**  
ANSWERED ON 10.08.2023

**FOREIGN TOURIST ARRIVALS**

2540 SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA:

Will the Minister of **TOURISM** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details about the number of the overall foreign tourist arrivals for medical purposes in India in the past five years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (b) whether the Union Government had taken any initiatives to project India into a top destination for medical tourism;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken to prevent the misuse of medical tourism in India?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a): State Wise Foreign Tourists Arrivals (FTAs) is not maintained by Ministry of Tourism. The details of FTAs in India for medical purpose during 2017 to 2021 are given below:

Sr. No.	Year	FTAs in India for medical Purpose (Figures in Lakh)
1.	2017	4.95
2.	2018	6.44
3.	2019	6.97
4.	2020	1.83
5.	2021	3.23

Source: Bureau of Immigration

(b) to (c): In order to boost Medical Tourism in the country, the Ministry of Tourism has formulated a National Strategy and Roadmap for Medical and Wellness Tourism.

e-Visa is presently available under 7 sub-categories i.e. e-Tourist visa, e-Business visa, e-Medical visa, e-Medical Attendant visa, e-Conference visa, e-Ayush visa and e-Ayush Attendant visa for nationals of 167 countries.

Ministry of Health is coordinating with other Ministries and stakeholders including Hospitals, Medical Value Travel (MVT) facilitators, Insurance Companies to promote medical value travel in the country. Several rounds of consultations have been conducted with line Ministries and stakeholders to identify the challenges and opportunities in the sector.

(d): The steps taken by Ministry of External Affairs to prevent the misuse of medical tourism are as under:

Before issuing medical visa, Indian Missions and Posts ask for relevant documentation for medical tourism like letter of reference from the Local hospital/Doctor, letter from the Hospital/Clinic in India where the applicant intends to seek treatment. In addition, to ensure that the person can bear the expenses of the treatment and stay, the person's bank statement is also asked for. Even if these documents are furnished, Mission often write to the concerned hospital/clinic in India to reconfirm the authenticity of the letters furnished by the applicant. Similarly, the letters issued by the Local Doctor/Hospital and the Bank are also reconfirmed by calling or writing to seek the confirmation. Besides, in cases of doubt the personal attendance of the applicant is insisted upon.

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