

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AYUSH
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 322

ANSWERED ON 06.02.2024

AYUSH visa for medical tourism

322 # Dr. Laxmikant Bajpayee:

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

- a) the plan of Government to introduce a special AYUSH visa category for foreign nationals who want to come to the country to take advantage of traditional medicines;
- (b) whether the Ministry has taken any steps to compile a data of the number of foreign people arriving in the country for treatment and training in the field;
- (c) the schemes of Government to promote the medical tourism in the country; and
- (d) whether Government has taken any steps to promote medical tourism through its G20 Presidency and via other international forums?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AYUSH
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

(a) The Government has introduced a separate category of Ayush Visa for foreigners visiting India for treatment under Ayush system/Indian system of medicine on 27th July, 2023. Ayush Visa is available under four sub-categories i.e. (i) Ayush Visa (AY-1), (ii) Ayush Attendant Visa (AY-2), (iii) e-Ayush Visa and (iv) e-Ayush Attendant Visa. Ayush Visa is granted to a foreigner whose sole purpose is to seek treatment through Ayush systems/Indian systems of medicine like therapeutic care and Wellness in a Hospital/Wellness Centre accredited and registered with any Government authority (ies) concerned or National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH)/ National Commission for Homoeopathy (NCH)/ National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) accredited hospitals providing Ayush services.

(b) As per the information received from the Ministry of External Affairs, A circular email dated 22.12.2023 was sent to all Indian Missions/Posts abroad seeking the number of Ayush visas issued since its introduction. Most of the Missions/Posts abroad which have responded and provided the NIL report in this regard.

(c) The Central Sector Scheme of Champion Services Sector Scheme under the Ministry of Ayush to promote for Medical Value Travel has the provision for financial assistance in the form of interest subsidy to be provided to the private investors for Establishment of World Class, State of the Art Super Specialty Hospitals/ Day Care Centres of the systems recognized under the National Commission for Indian system of medicine (NCISM) Act, 2020 (erstwhile Indian Medicine Central Council (IMCC) Act, 1970) or the National Commission for Homoeopathy Act, 2020 (erstwhile Homeopathic Central Council (HCC) Act, 1973) on Pan India basis.

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

(d) Yes, the Government had organized a side event during its first Health Working Group meeting held in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala from 18th - 20th January, 2023 to build consensus in G20 countries for the promotion of holistic, value-based healthcare through medical tourism.