

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.†5726
ANSWERED ON 02.04.2018**

FORMATION OF COMMITTEE FOR MEDICAL TOURISM

†5726. SHRIMATI REKHA VERMA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the medical tourists are reportedly facing a lot of problems in the country and if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to streamline the process of medical tourism in the country;**
- (b) whether the Government has formed a Committee or Sub committee to solve the problems of medical tourism and if so, the details thereof and the details of the issues raised by the Committee along with the details of the ups and downs in the performance in the sector during the last three years; and**
- (c) whether the Government has a mechanism to monitor the number of people who come to India as medical tourists and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SHRI K.J. ALPHONS)**

(a): The Ministry of Tourism has recognized Medical and Wellness Tourism as Niche Tourism Products and offers various facilities as given below to promote India as a preferred destination as well as facilitate the visit of medical tourists to the country:

- (i) The Ministry offers financial support as Marketing Development Assistance for Publicity and for organising Wellness and Medical Tourism Promotion shows as well as workshops/events/seminars to accredited Medical and Wellness Tourism Service Providers and Chambers of Commerce, etc.**

- (ii) **A film on Medical Tourism has been produced in association with BBC and is used at various fora for promotional purposes.**
- (iii) **Medical and Medical attendant visa has been introduced to streamline and ease the travel process of Medical Tourists. The e-tourist visa regime has also been expanded to include medical visits as well.**
- (iv) **It has been decided to set up facilitation counters at the major airports of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Bengaluru for tourists arriving on Medical Visas.**

Apart from the above, the Department of Commerce and Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC) has launched a Healthcare Portal www.indiahealthcaretourism.com in English, Arabic, Russian and French languages as a single source platform providing comprehensive information to medical travellers on the top healthcare institutions in the country.

(b) & (c): A National Medical and Wellness Tourism Board has also been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister for Tourism to provide a dedicated institutional framework to take forward the cause of promotion of Medical and Wellness Tourism including Ayurveda and any other format of Indian system of medicine covered by Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH). The Board has members from the Ministries of Health, Commerce, External Affairs, AYUSH, Home Affairs, the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH) as well as representatives from the major chambers of commerce, Hospitals and independent experts in the field of Medicine and Wellness. It works as an umbrella organization to promote this segment of tourism in an organized manner. The Board has formed sub-committees on visa issues, accreditation and standards and marketing and promotion. The Ministry of Tourism collates data regarding the arrivals on Medical and Medical Attendant visas provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Following are the foreign tourist arrivals in India for medical purpose during 2014 to 2016:

Year	Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs)
2014	1,84,298
2015	2,33,918
2016	4,27,014
