

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.†951
ANSWERED ON 17.12.2018**

DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF MEDICAL TOURISTS

†951. SHRIMATI RANJANBEN BHATT:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a decline in the number of medical tourists in the country;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor and whether the Government proposes to ascertain the reasons for this decline;**
- (c) whether medical tourism has huge potential in the country;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to boost medical tourism in the country?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI K.J. ALPHONS)

(a) and (b): No, Madam. The Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India on medical visa during 2016 and 2017 were estimated at 427014 and 495056 respectively, registering a positive growth of 15.9%.

(c) and (d): Yes, Madam. Medical Tourism holds immense potential for India. The Indian systems of medicines, viz Ayurveda, Yoga, Panchakarma, Rejuvenation Therapy, etc., are among the most ancient systems of medical treatment in the world. India can provide medical and health care of international standards at low costs. India excels in the state of the art medical facilities, reputed health care professionals, quality nursing facilities and traditional healthcare therapies.

(e): The Ministry of Tourism has taken various steps to promote Medical Tourism which inter-alia include:

- **Launch of campaigns in the international markets including for medical tourism under the Incredible India brand-line; conducting Road Shows, Know India Seminars;**
- **Ministry produces brochures, CDs, films and other publicity material for promotion of Medical & Health Tourism. The film on Medical Tourism film was aired in the Middle East and North African Market. On social media Medical Tourism is being promoted across various platforms.**
- **In order to provide dedicated institutional framework to take forward the cause of promotion of Medical Tourism, a National Medical and Wellness Tourism Board has been constituted.**
- **Department of Commerce and Services Export Promotion Council have launched a Healthcare Portal www.indiahealthcaretourism.com, as a single source platform providing comprehensive information to medical travellers on the top healthcare institutions in the country in various languages.**
- **The e-tourist visa regime has been expanded to include medical visits as well. Medical and Medical attendant visa has been introduced to ease the travel process of Medical Tourists. The maximum duration of stay in India under the e-Medical visa is a longer duration of six months.**
