

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1395
ANSWERED ON 10/02/2023

VISA RULES FOR MEDICAL PATIENTS

1395. MS. MIMI CHAKRABORTY
SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the Government has relaxed visa rules for medical patients coming to India for treatment purposes under medical tourism;
- (b) if so, the bilateral agreement with the countries on medical visa relaxation for people coming for medical treatment;
- (c) whether there is any treaty rule for on arrival spot visa approval/sanction for patients to get treatment in India from Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka thereof; and
- (d) if so, the detail thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI. V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a to d) Government of India has a liberalized visa regime including for medical treatment purposes. This allows medical visas to patients as well as to the attending members. Besides Regular/Paper Visas which are granted by Indian Missions/Posts abroad e-Medical Visa and e-Medical Attendant Visa (under e-Visa Regime, which is granted by Bureau of Immigration/MHA) is also available for patients and their attendants, respectively, for availing medical treatment in India.

The medical visa regime is in tune with the 'Heal in India' initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The facility of regular medical visa is available to all foreign nationals who are desirous of availing medical treatment in India. In addition, under e-

Visa, Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) for medical treatment purposes, started in 2018, is granted within 72 hrs of application. This facility was initially allowed for nationals of 142 countries. Currently, nationals of 165 countries can avail e-Medical visa and e-Medical Attendant Visa.

India has bilateral Visa facilitation agreements with Bangladesh, Maldives and South Africa, which includes provisions for grant of Medical visa to patients and their attendants as well. Nationals of Bhutan and Nepal do not require Visa to enter India. However, nationals from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka require Visa.
