

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4274  
ANSWERED ON 27.03.2023**

**PROPOSAL TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT MEDICAL TOURISM**

**4274. SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has developed any policy or proposal to promote and raise awareness globally about medical tourism, especially in Tamil Nadu and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Government proposes to increase the access of medical tourism, which provides new opportunities to health sector;**
- (c) whether the Government has held any consultations or assessment on sector data of the last five years and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) if not, the steps taken by the Government for monitoring the same?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM**

**(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)**

**(a): In order to boost Medical Tourism in the country including in the state of Tamil Nadu, Ministry of Tourism has formulated a National Strategy and Roadmap for Medical and Wellness Tourism. The Strategy has identified the following key pillars:**

- (i). Develop a brand for India as a wellness destination**
- (ii). Strengthen the ecosystem for medical and wellness tourism**
- (iii). Enable digitalization by setting up Online Medical Value Travel (MVT) Portal**

- (iv). Enhancement of accessibility for Medical Value Travel**
- (v). Promoting Wellness Tourism**
- (vi). Governance and Institutional Framework**

**(b) to (d): The Government of India liberalized the e-Tourist Visa Scheme pursuant to the cabinet approval on 30.11.2016 and the e-Tourist Visa (eTV) scheme was renamed to e-Visa scheme and, at present, it has e-medical Visa and e-Medical Attendant Visa as sub-categories of e-visa.**

**In the case of e-Medical Visa and for e-medical Attendant Visa, triple entry is permitted and extension may be granted up to 6 months on case to case basis on merits of each case by the Foreigners Regional Registration Officers (FRRO)/Foreigners Registration officer (FRO) concerned. Medical Attendant Visa was co-terminus with the validity of the principal e visa holder.**

**The details of Foreign Tourists Arrivals on Medical purpose during year 2017-2021 is as follows:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Medical Purpose (in lakh)</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>4.95</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>6.44</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>6.97</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>1.83</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>3.04</b>

**Source: Bureau of Immigration (BOI)**

**Further, as conveyed by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, it is coordinating with other Ministries and stakeholders to promote medical value travel in the country. Several rounds of stakeholder consultations have been conducted with line Ministries, Hospitals, MVT facilitators, Insurance Companies and NABH etc. to identify the challenges and opportunities in the sector.**

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