

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TOURISM AND CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1361  
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2006  
HEALTH TOURISM  
Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

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

- (a) whether the health tourism is gaining importance in India; and
- (b) if so, the concrete measures taken/being taken by the Government to exploit this potential in a large way?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The measures taken by the Government to exploit this potential are as follows :-

- (i) A Task Force, headed by Secretary (Health) with Senior Officials of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Tourism and experts in the medical field has been constituted to assess the opportunities and to recommend action to be taken by the Government and private industry for promoting India as a health destination.
- (ii) The Sub-Committees on accreditation and price banding constituted by Ministry of Tourism have submitted their reports with the accreditation norms and price banding worked out for identified hospitals and identified specialized medical services.
- (iii) Indian Healthcare Federation, a Non-Governmental Organisation affiliated to the Confederation of Indian Industry, on advice by Government, has prepared a guide on select Indian hospitals of the country, which could be used for health tourism purposes.
- (iv) A new category of `Medical Visa` has been introduced, which can be given for specific purpose to foreign tourist coming to India for medical treatment.
- (v) Guidelines for accreditation of Ayurvedic and Panchkarma Centres have been finalized and issued for implementation.
- (vi) It has been decided to prepare and print brochure, CDs and other publicity material to promote Medical and health tourism.
- (vii) Medical and health tourism has been specifically promoted at various international platforms such as World Travel Mart, London.