

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2943
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2006
MEDICAL TOURISM
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has issued any directions to the Government of Tamil Nadu to identify places for boosting medical tourism in the State;
- (b) if so, the details and the response of the State Government thereto; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to create easy access of medical aid to the visiting medical tourists in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Department of Tourism has requested all the State Tourism Departments including Tamil Nadu State to promote medical tourism through suitable packaging of identified best hospitals and price banding for various specific treatment. Moreover, guidelines formulated by Department of AYUSH, to prescribe minimum requirements for Ayurveda and Panchkarma Centres have also been circulated to all State Governments including Tamil Nadu State Government. No response has been received on the steps taken by State Governments in this regard.

(c): The steps taken by the Government for providing easy access of medical aid to the visiting tourists include preparation of a guide on select Indian cities and corresponding hospitals, and a guide on suggested uniform price-band for different specialty services for Indian hospitals by Indian Healthcare Federation, a Non- Governmental Organisation affiliated to the Confederation of Indian Industry for promoting Health Tourism. A new category of visa 'Medical Visa' ('M'-Visa), has been introduced by Ministry of Home Affairs Government of India, which can be given for specific purpose to foreign tourists coming to India for medical treatment. Medical and health facilities available in India have been promoted at various international platforms such as World Travel Mart, London, ITB Berlin etc. for medical tourists.