

financial assistance to service providers for the promotion of domestic, medical and wellness and Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) Tourism in the country.

#### **International cooperation in tourism sector**

2581. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has signed any agreement of international cooperation in the tourism sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the areas to be governed by the said agreement along with the impact of the said agreement on the promotion of tourism in the country; and

(c) the financial assistance taken/provided in this regard during each of the last three years and the current year, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) to (c) Government of India has signed Bilateral Agreements/Memorandums of Understanding with forty six countries, a tripartite agreement between India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) and an agreement with International Finance Corporation for tourism cooperation, *inter alia*, aiming at destination development, management, promotion, marketing and capacity building.

A loan agreement for an amount equivalent to Japanese Yen 7,331 million was also signed with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in the year 2003 for Phase-II of Ajanta Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project.

#### **Foreign tourists in India**

2582. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tourists who visited India during the last three years;

(b) whether Government has any State-wise statistics; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) to (c) The number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during 2007, 2008 and 2009 were 5.08 million, 5.28 million and 5.11 million (provisional) respectively. The number of foreign tourist visits (FTVs), which is different than the FTAs, to different States and Union Territories, during the last three years are given in the Statement [Refer to the Statement appended to answer to Unstarred Question No. 2577 part (a) to (e)].