(b) the year-wise medical and wellness tourism in the country in the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether Ministry is trying to find out the impediments in medical and wellness tourism in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that National Medical and Wellness Tourism Promotion Board has recently met; and

(e) if so, the details of decisions taken by the Board to address the concerns in this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (e) There are several Asian destinations including Singapore and Thailand etc., that are offering Medical care facilities and promoting Medical Tourism. India has an advantage for reasons such as State of the Art Medical facilities, reputed healthcare professionals, quality nursing facilities and no waiting time for availing medical services.

In order to provide dedicated institutional framework to take forward the cause of promotion of Medical Tourism, Wellness Tourism and Yoga, Ayurveda Tourism and any other format of Indian system of medicine covered by Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH), a National Medical and Wellness Tourism Board has been constituted. The Board shall work as an umbrella organization that governs and promotes this segment of tourism in an organized manner. The Ministry would drive the promotion of Medical and Wellness Tourism and will act as a facilitator and support the medical/wellness segment in promoting tourism and promoting India as a medical and wellness destination. The board held its first meeting on 13th January, 2016 and will look into the issues relating to regulation, monitoring, marketing and promotion of Medical and Wellness Tourism. The foreign tourists who visited India for Medical purpose during 2012, 2013 and 2014* were 171021, 236898 and 184298, respectively. (*In the year 2014, the number of FTAs who came on Medical Visa (including Medical Attendant).

Financial assistance for tourism development in Jharkhand

2223. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prioritized some projects for tourism development in Jharkhand during last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the financial assistance provided thereunder;

(c) the expected tourism growth and earnings after completion of the said projects;

(d) the arrangement made by Government for manning and maintenance of such projects;

(e) whether Government also provides any financial assistance for the maintenance of the tourism projects after their completion; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Development of Tourism Projects is the primary responsibility of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) in consultation with them subject to availability of funds, liquidation of pending utilisation certificates and adherence to relevant scheme guidelines.

In the last two years, the following projects have been sanctioned for development of tourism infrastructure in the State of Jharkhand:-

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of projects	Amount Sanctioned
1.	Development of Ranchi-Saraikela-Kharshawan-Purbi-Singbhum Mega Circuit, Jharkhand (2012-13)	3812.53
2.	Development of Ranchi-Saraikela-Kharshawan-Purbi-Singbhum Mega Circuit Part-II, Jharkhand Remaining Site (2012-13)	1073.18
3.	Light and Sound (SEL) Show at Kanke Dam, Ranchi, Jharkhand (2013-14)	500.00
	TOTAL	5385.71

(c) The Ministry of Tourism does not maintain data on expected tourism growth and earnings after completion of projects.

(d) to (f) After completion of the projects the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations submit Completion Certificate along with Agreement for Management of Assets Created, on Judicial Stamp Paper and Undertaking in which they undertake to

properly upkeep, maintain and operate the project for tourism purpose only. However, cost of operation and maintenance is provided under the scheme of funding to Central Agencies such as Railways, ITDC, CPWD for tourism infrastructure development.

Deprivation of rights of Gram Sabha over forest clearance

2224. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gram Sabha in scheduled areas have been deprived of their rights of deciding over forest clearance for non-forest projects in their jurisdiction under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 and the Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(b) whether Government has decided to implement recommendations of High Level Committee on status of Tribal communities constituted in August, 2013 pertaining to strengthening the Forest Rights Act, 2006; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Steps taken in the Ministry to strengthen Forest Rights Act, 2006, based on feedback, review and recommendations of various Committees:

(i) The Ministry has issued guidelines and clarifications from time to time to ensure that the provisions of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 are not violated. The close monitoring of implementation of FRA and providing guidance to States has resulted in the conferment of 16.73 lakh Individual titles and 41,367 Community titles comprising 36.36 lakh hectares of forest land as on 31.01.2016.

(ii) In order to expedite recognition and vesting of community rights, the Ministry has issued guidelines dated 23.4.2015 and 22.9.2015, based on experience and feedback from the States and other stakeholders. This has resulted in 41,367 Community titles being issued thus far.

(iii) Attention of low performing States has been drawn to the speedy implementation of Forest Rights Act and their progress is monitored through video conferencing and monthly progress reports.

(iv) A code for managing community forests is the strategy to empower the community to sustainably manage forest resources.