

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3404  
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2007  
BILATERAL CULTURAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN ITALY AND INDIA  
Pallani Shamy Shri K.C .

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

- (a) the number of tourists from Italy visited India during the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government has sought any assistance from Italy for preservation and conservation of all important monuments in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the bilateral cultural agreement made in this regard between the two countries?

**Answer**

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

- (a) The number of tourists from Italy during the years 2003-2005 is as under:

Sl. No. Year No. of Tourists

- 1. 2003 46,908
- 2. 2004 65,561
- 3. 2005 67,642

(b) & (c) Under a Cultural Exchange Programme signed on 25.3.2003 and a Memorandum of Understanding signed on 31st January, 2005 between India and Italy, an expert working group has been formulated for studies on the condition of paintings at Ajanta. The programme envisages research and study, cooperation in documentation and formulation of conservation programme.

The Italian experts have carried out photo documentation, laser scanning and condition assessment of the mural paintings in Cave 17 of Ajanta. Besides, as a part of the above collaborative programme, a conservation – restoration training course on historical, archaeological, ceramic and glass objects was conducted by the central Institute for Restoration, Rome (Italy) at the National Museum in Delhi from 12th to 28th February, 2007.