

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4889
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.03.2018**

RENOVATION OF ESI HOSPITAL, CHOUDWAR

4889. SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the renovation work of the ESI hospital at Choudwar has been held up since the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has not issued a No Objection Certificate and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Ministry has taken any action, including taking up the issue with ASI, to ensure the completion of the renovation;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (d) whether the Government is aware that the renovation is urgently required as the ESI hospital building in Choudwar is presently in an unsafe condition; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(a): Yes, Madam. The renovation work of the ESI Hospital, Choudwar could not be done due to non-clearance by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), despite numerous correspondences.

(b) & (c): Yes, Madam. Numbers of correspondences were made with Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and Ministry of Culture (Govt. of India) for issuance of No Objection Certificate for undertaking the work of face-lifting/renovation work of ESI Hospital at Choudwar. But Archaeological Survey of India denied the permission to undertake face-lifting/renovation work of ESI Hospital, Choudwar stating that "since the site for expansion/ modernisation of ESI hospital falls within the notified area of Choudwar Fort, and as such no permission can be accorded under the provisions of AMASR Act, 1958."

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(d) & (e): Yes, Madam. The only certain repairs of existing buildings within the approved structure/height are permissible as per ASI norms, ESIC has decided to execute special repair and maintenance works of the ESI hospital building. For this purpose, ESIC has approved an estimate for an amount of Rs. 55.19 lakhs out of which an amount of Rs. 12.42 lakhs has already been released towards 1st installment to the Executing Agency viz. Executive Engineer, Charibatia, (R&B) Division, Choudwar, Government of Odisha.
