

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2233  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.12.2018

Preservation of Konark Temple

2233. SHRI NAGENDRA KUMAR PRADHAN:  
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR DIWAKER:  
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH:  
SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Konark Temple (Black Pagoda) in Odisha is at stake and if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year so far;
- (b) the funds allocated and expenditure incurred by ASI on the maintenance of Konark Temple;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for the upkeep of Konark Temple; and
- (d) whether the Government has received any complaint/complaints of irregularities by the Archaeological Survey of India during restoration of Konark Temple and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government against the quality?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE  
FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE.

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) No Madam. The Sun Temple, Konark is a protected monument of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for which the essential conservation work is attended by the ASI regularly. However, for easy access to different locations of the Temple and to execute chemical conservation work the tubular scaffolding has been erected at the Jagmohana of the Temple.
- (b) The details of funds allocated and expenditure incurred for conservation, preservation and environmental development of Sun Temple Konark are as under:-

(Amount Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No	Year	Allocation	Expenditure
1.	2015-16	357.59	352.82
2.	2016-17	140.87	140.57
3.	2017-18	203.26	145.52
4.	2018-19	181.26	178.93

- (c) The essential conservation and maintenance work of the Temple is attended continuously by procurement of necessary materials and engagement of requisite manpower. Proper arrangements for security and visitors' amenities have also been made.
- (d) There are no such complaints of irregularities. However, a section of print media has expressed apprehensions about restoration through plain stone work. It has been clarified that as per the study conducted by CBRI Roorkee, the temple is quite stable, the restoration work is attended as per the conservation policy of the ASI and International Charters.