

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 152
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.02.2019

RESTORATION OF KONARK TEMPLE

152. DR. KULAMANI SAMAL:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there exists a restoration rule for activities of restoration taken up by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and if so, the salient features and cases of violation of such rule by the ASI during the last five years;
- (b) whether ASI has taken up restoration of the Sun Temple at Konark and if so, the details of the restoration work targeted, completed so far and the target date of completion of such work along with money spent for the said purpose, year-wise;
- (c) whether 40 per cent of old artistic stone carvings of the Konark temple have been replaced by the ASI with plain stones if so, the reaction and the steps taken by the Government to put in place similar artistic stone carvings in the said monument;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the Konark temple so far, and
- (e) whether the Government has any mechanism to check the wrong doings of ASI in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The conservation work of the monuments is executed by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) as per the Conservation Policy of ASI and International Charters of Conservation of Monuments recognized by the UNESCO. The salient features of such conservation rules includes maintaining the authenticity and integrity of the monument and not to attempt any restoration without sufficient available evidence. There is no violation by the ASI of any prescribed guidelines and rules.

- (b) Yes Madam, ASI is attending essential conservation work of Sun Temple Konark regularly, as conservation work of monuments is a continuous process. The necessary conservation and maintenance work is executed as per the requirements at the monument and availability of resources. The expenditure incurred for conservation of Sun Temple Konark during last three years is given below:

S. No	Year	Expenditure incurred (Amount in Rs.)
1.	2015-16	2,83,89,335/-
2.	2016-17	1,04,89,295/-
3.	2017-18	85,75,855/-

- (c) No Madam, the restoration work as per the original has been executed wherever sufficient evidence was available. The plain work has been attended for structural stability where adequate evidence of original design was not available. The work has been executed as per the archaeological norms and principles.
- (d) Conservation and strengthening work of Sun Temple Konark is ensured by & attending essential repairs regularly and replacement of decayed fabric as
- (e) per the archaeological norms. ASI is taking full care of the monument and there are no wrong doings. Necessary control mechanism of Central Government is applicable to ASI also.