

Development plan for Ajanta and Ellora Caves

1801. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Superintendent of Archaeological Survey of India, has called for a ban on all tourists to the caves of Ajanta; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Ajanta paintings have suffered heavy damage;

(c) if so, whether it is also a fact that number of tourists is much higher than officially allowed inside the caves in an hour;

(d) if so, what are the causes of increasing number of tourists in an hour inside the cave;

(e) whether Ajanta Ellora development plan was sponsored by the Japanese Government with a view to give an impetus to tourism in Aurangabad;

(f) if so, what was the estimated cost of the development plan and the decision if any taken/likely to be taken by Government with regard thereto; and

(g) whether Government propose any development plan for Ajanta and Ellora caves, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (KM. SELIA): (a) No, Sir. Cave No. 1 at Ajanta was closed for the public from 26th to 28th February, 1995 and Cave No. 2 from 2nd to 4th March, 1995 for periodical fumigation for arresting bio-deterioration of paintings.

(b) Before taking over the monument under Central protection, the cave paintings had suffered considerable damage in the past due to various factors. But, ever since the Archaeological Survey of India has undertaken the maintenance and preservation of the monuments not only the decay has effectively been arrested but a large number of new painted panels have also been exposed.

(c) No, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India is strictly enforcing the norms fixed not to allow more than 40 tourists inside a cave at one time.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) Ajanta and Ellora development plan with an estimated cost of Rs. 195.61 crores prepared by the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation under OEFC has been approved for providing infrastructural facilities for tourism like improving roads, railways and aerodrome facilities, water supply and sewerage, telecommunication, electricity, construction of tourist complexes and creating visitors management services besides conservation and preservation of monuments, landscaping, etc. Major part of the estimated cost is to be met-out of the financial assistance from the Government of Japan on reimbursable basis.

Evaluation of SAI working

1802. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tata Consultancy Services has evaluated the working of the Sports Authority of India in the recent past;

(b) whether the Tata Consultancy Services has made any recommendations to improve the SAI; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS): (SHRI MUKAL WASNIK): (a) No, Sir. However, Tata Consultancy Services has evaluated the working of some of the schemes of Sports Authority of India.

(b) and (c) The report of Tata Consultancy Services has recommended modifications in the schemes being implemented by SAI as follows:—

1. Development of a Scheme for broad-basing through mass participation in sports in Educational net works.
2. Creation of provisions for more facilities for continuity for sports in Colleges and Universities.
3. Creation of "Centres of Excellence" for selected sports disciplines for attaining international level performance.
4. Re-organisation of existing schemes to implement the above three recommendations.

The above recommendations are under consideration of the Government.

Literacy Rate in Gujarat

1803. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of literacy in the country as per 1991 census with State-wise details thereof;

(b) what is the percentage of literacy among males and females;

(c) whether it is a fact that Gujarat is the lowest literate State; and

(d) if so, what measure Government propose to take to increase the literacy rate in the State?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (KM, SELJA): (a) and (b) The literacy rate in the country according to 1991 census for the population aged 7 years and above was 52.21 per cent. A statement showing State-wise literacy rates amongst males and females is attached. (See below).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The main approach towards literacy is through the volunteer based Total Literacy Campaigns taken up on the basis of projects prepared by the districts irrespective of their level of literacy. In Gujarat, Total Literacy Campaigns have been taken up in all the 19 districts of the State.

Statement

India/State or Union Territory		Literacy Rate		
		Person	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5
	INDIA	52.21	64.13	39.29
	States			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	44.09	55.13	32.72
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	41.59	51.45	29.69
3.	Assam	52.89	61.87	43.03
4.	Bihar	38.48	52.49	22.89