

Short Notice Question and Answer

Examination of the Deteriorating Condition of Konark and other Temples by an International Expert

2. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an international expert in historical monuments and temples has arrived in India to examine the deteriorating condition of the Konarak and other temples in the country;

(b) whether he had any talks with him; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUN-DER): (a) to (c) On the request of this Ministry Prof. (Dr.) Raymond Lemaire, UNESCO expert came to India on the 28th April, for a six-day visit to examine the condition of the Sun temple at Konarak and the temple of Jagannatha at Puri in Orissa and to suggest additional measures, if any, to be taken, apart from the steps already taken by the Archeological Survey of India regarding preservation of the temples. As per schedule, the expert was to fly to Bhubaneshwar by Indian Airlines on the 1st May from New Delhi to visit Konarak On the 2nd May, 1979, But he could not visit Konarak due to cancellation of flights by the Indian Airlines.

However, Prof. Raymond Lemaire was apprised in details by the officers of Archaeological Survey of India regarding the problems and measures already taken as per recommendations of the Expert Committees, formed earlier to preserve the temples, with the help of detailed notes technical data drawings photographs and colour slides. The expert

called on me and apprised me of the situation. The expert expressed his opinion that a visit to Konark would be more rewarding after the rains i.e., in the month of October, as he would like to see the behaviour of the stones with reference to ground water-table salinity and moisture content. He is however, expected to send up an interim report on his discussions and examinations of documents on the preservation of the temples at Konarak and Puri

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : सभापति महोदय, आप को याद होगा कि पिछले सत्र में भी मैंने यह सवाल उठाया था। कोणार्क मंदिर बर्बाद हो रहा है। उस की हालत बिगड़ रही है। उस की बनावट बिगड़ रही है। इस सवाल को मैंने पिछले सत्र में भी उठाया था। फिर आप को हैरानी होगी कि इस सत्र में मैंने इस सवाल को फिर क्यों उठा दिया जब कि उसका जवाब दे दिया गया है। आप को यह भी याद होगा कि डा० लोहिया ने हम लोगों को बतलाया था कि "छेड़ो नहीं, और छेड़ो तो छोड़ो नहीं।" यदि किसी विषय को हम लोग छेड़ते हैं तो उस को फिर आखिरी मंजिल तक पहुंचाते हैं और जब तक उस का निदान नहीं होता है तब तक हम उस के पीछे लगे रहते हैं।

मंत्री महोदय ने पिछले सत्र में बतलाया था, जवाब दिया था और अभी भी कहा है कि वह इंटरनेशनल एक्सपर्ट मानुमेंट्स के, उन को मुपर एक्सपर्ट ही कहिये, एक हफ्ते के लिए यहां आये, लेकिन फ्लाइट्स की गड़बड़ी की वजह से यहां नहीं जा सके, भुवनेश्वर, लेकिन इस बात में कोई दम नहीं है। अध्यक्ष महोदय, यदि भारत सरकार ने उनको एक सप्ताह के लिए यहां बुलाया था सीरियसली, और वह आये, तो क्या एक फ्लाइट से न सही, दूसरी से, तीसरी से या कार से वहां नहीं जा सकते थे। लेकिन हकीकत में वह भारत नहीं आये थे। वह तो जाकर्ता आये थे, कोलालपुर आये थे और वह यहां से पास कर रहे थे। एक तरह से उनका यह फ्लाइट बिजट था और उसमें वह जो कुछ देख सके, देखा और उनसे आकर बातें कीं और हां, हां, ठीक है। अपनी रिपोर्ट हम भेज देंगे वहां से, ऐसी ही बातें कह कर, जैसा कि मंत्री जी ने बताया है, वह चले गये। इस से साबित होता है कि इस बात को टेकअप करने में सीरियसनेस की कमी है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूं यदि उन की फ्लाइट की गड़बड़ी हो गई थी तो वह किसी दूसरी फ्लाइट से या कार से वहां नहीं जा सकते थे। या किसी दूसरे साधन से नहीं जा सकते थे। यदि आप सीरियस होते इस बात में कि कोणार्क की रक्षा हो और उस को प्रिजर्व किया जाय तो कुछ किया जा सकता था। वह कलिंग कला या कहिये कि भारत की कला का एक नमूना है। 1253 ईसवी में बनवाया था राजा नरसिंह देव ने, जो कलिंग के

राजा थे और 230 फिट उस की ऊँचाई है। बहुत जानदार उस की बनावट है। 24 पहिये उस में हैं जो कि 12 महीनों और 15, 15 दिन के प्रतिबिम्ब हैं। उनके रथ में सात घोड़े हैं जो कि सात दिन के नमूने हैं और वे पहिये दिन रात को दशति हैं। 15 दिन के पहियों में एक शुक्ल पक्ष का रहता है दूसरा कृष्ण पक्ष का। उस को मैंने स्वयं देखा है और घण्टों तक उसे देखता रहा हूँ। मंदिर के अन्दर क्या है उस में मेरी दिलचस्पी नहीं है, लेकिन भवन की जो बनावट है उस में मेरी दिलचस्पी है और इन्हीं कारणों से इस बात को हम लोग बार बार छोड़ते हैं। तो माननीय मंत्री महोदय बतायें कि यदि फ्लाइट को गड़बड़ी हुई तो क्या वह दूसरी फ्लाइट से नहीं जा सकते थे या कार से नहीं जा सकते थे और क्या यह सही है कि मंदिर में उन को प्रवेश नहीं करने दिया गया (Interruptions) जरा सुनिये। तो अगले बार में यह बात आ गई थी कि वहाँ विरोध हुआ और मंदिर में उन को घुसने नहीं दिया गया। पूरी की बात अलग है। उसको इस से मिस मत कीजिए और इस लिये वह अपनी यात्रा कैमिल कर के चले गये।

तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि असली बात क्या है? यह जो आये इनका खर्चा आपने मीट किया था कि यूनेस्को ने मीट किया, इस पर आप गैरमंजूर हैं। ये कोणाक क्यों नहीं गये? जो थोड़ी बहुत बातें क्वालिटेडिवली आपकी उनके साथ हुई हैं जो आपकी ऐक्सपर्ट कमेटी की रिकमंडेशन हैं उनसे वह कितनी भिन्न हैं, इस पर आप बतायें।

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUN-DER:
Sir, the hon. Member has come forward with a lot of questions and a lot of insinuations. I do not know why he should bring these insinuations against this foreign expert who is the President of the International Council of Monuments and Sites. He is not our servant. He has engagements throughout the world. When he came here, unfortunately the plane did not fly on that day. He had to cancel the visit. He did not waste his time here. He met the Orissa Chief Minister who happened to be present in Delhi during those days. He also studied all the papers and then he promised to come at a time when the examination would be most suitable, i.e. in October after the effect of rains and water on the monuments would be more pronounced and also when the ground level of water could be measured. I

That would be the best time, according to the expert. I do not know why the hon. Member is making all these insinuations.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : सभापति महोदय, मैंने कहा कि जो थोड़ी बातें आपकी हुई हैं, थोड़े से विचार जो उसने दिये उसमें आपने कौन सी नई बातें देखी जो आपकी ऐक्सपर्ट कमेटी की रिकमंडेशन से दूसरी हैं? जो रिकमंडेशन पहले हैं उनसे क्या उनके विचार क्वालिटेडिवली दूसरे हैं? यह बात जो उन्होंने बताई है यह हमको हिन्दुस्तान में नहीं मिल रही है। तो यह जो संसार का ऐक्सपर्ट आया है इस पर आपने कुछ नहीं कहा।

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUN-DER:
Sir, I am afraid, the hon. Member has not understood the last part of my substantive answer. The expert has not given any report. He says that he will be sending the interim report and only then we will be in a position to compare the two. The hon. Member has also raised the question whether he will be allowed to enter the Konark temple. The Konark temple is not under worship. Therefore, there is no question of his being prevented there. There was some question about his entry to Lord Jagannath Temple. An alternative suggestion was given by some people, namely, that when during the Rath Yatra festival Lord Jagannath would be brought out of the temple only then would he be able to visit. But this expert has said that it will not be possible for him to come in late June. These two temples are constructed with almost similar types of stones. So, the view in respect of Konark temple will also hold good in respect of the Lord Jagannath temple. But we are expecting an interim report from him and then with the help of the Orissa Chief Minister the correct line of action will be taken.

श्री शिवचन्द्र झा : सभापति महोदय, मेरा दूसरा सप्ली में है। (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already put four supplementaries.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : सभापति महोदय, जरा सुनिये तो। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि पिछली जो रिकमंडेशन है ऐक्सपर्ट कमेटी की उसमें जो सुझाव दिये गये थे उसने कहा था कि साल्ट-नेस, नमकबिहीन पानी से बराबर उसको धोया जाए क्योंकि जो नमक के पानी का झोंका बे घाफ बंगाल से आता है उसके कारण उसकी बरबादी होती है। उससे टेम्पुल की खराबी हो जाती है। तो वह नमकबिहीन पानी से धोया जाता है कि नहीं।

दूसरे, आपके मन्दिर पर बहुत सारी शाड़ियाँ आ गई हैं जिससे उसकी बरबादी हो गई, वह भी उसकी रिकमंडेशन है।

तीसरी, मंदिर के प्रगल-बगल में अभी भी पेड़ हैं और पेड़ लगाये जायें ताकि जो नमक के पानी का झोंका आता है उसको वह रोक सकें, यह भी उसकी रिकमंडेशन है, इस पर क्या कार्यवाही हो रही है कि नहीं? वह विशेषज्ञ जब आयेगा तब आयेगा। तो अभी की जो रिकमंडेशन है उन पर क्या काम हो रहा है, यह आप बतायें।

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUN-DER: There are a large number of recommendations. In answer to some starred question in the Lok Sabha I had given a list of such recommendations. If you allow me, I will lay a copy of it on the Table of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUN-DER: I lay a copy of it on the Table. [See Appendix CIX, Annexure No. 66]

The expert committee's recommendations are, by and large, being followed. It is not correct to say that the temple is being washed with saline water. Sea is rather far distant from that place and it is not possible to carry sea water for that purpose. The other day, hon. Member, Dr. Lokesh Chandra also put this question and I have sent, a letter to him explaining the position that there is a well there at the site and with the water coming from the well, the temple is being washed.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO: Sir, our anxiety is to preserve the temple, the rich wealth.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be brief and put your supplementary.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO: I

am not putting the question

that way because it is no use speaking about the history of the construction of this temple. We are anxious to see that it is preserved because it is such a rich wealth that we have inherited and it is very difficult to create one of this type. That is why, we are pursuing this matter in this way, Sir, on the last occasion, the hon. Minister informed us that UNESCO's help has been sought and that will be coming shortly to look after the temple, and we were very much gladdened. Now, Sir, here there is a Deputy Superintendent of Archea-ology at Konarak and on the 30th of April he gets a letter from the Deputy Director General, Shri Thapar, saying that he would be visiting Konarak on the second and also Ratna-giri the next day. This is the tour programme that he sends. That letter does not make a mention of Dr. Lemaire or other persons like Mr. Sen Gupta or anybody else visiting Konarak or Puri. Naturally, one would be prone to feel, or get an impression that this programme of Dr. Lemaire's visit to Konarak, which the Minister says was scheduled for the first was something which was not there. Therefore, we are anxious to know that if you had requisitioned the services of Dr. Lemaire and he was to come on a particular day, why is it that the local authorities were not informed in time? Secondly, if he had come here and because of the flight being not available, he was not able to go there, do you feel that it is sufficient if he only talks to the people here? A communication in writing would have given the same information and knowledge to Dr. Lemaire. He had come here and naturally, as Mr. Jha pointed out, he should have been requested to go there. Therefore, my question is, how is it that he had come and gone back and you did not persuade him to stay on? As he says he will be coming back very shortly and he will first send a preliminary report and then come shortly. I want to know when

he is likely to come again because we apprehend that in the meantime the temple may face a greater harm and some more stones may fall, It is for the Government themselves* to attend to it immediately so that this rich wealth could be preserved.

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: I can assure the hon. Member that his apprehensions and inferences are not correct. The expert wanted to come and I had written to the Chief Minister of Orissa, Shri Rou-tray. He is the head of the State Government and everything was arranged but because of this unforeseen event, namely, the flight being cancelled the expert could not go. So, there is no reason for any inference or apprehension and I have said that this expert has not simply studied the papers here but he has made a preliminary study of available materials, because he did not want to waste his time as the plane was not available. He studied the papers and other matters and has promised to come in October when, according to him, the time would be most suitable.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : श्री मंत्री महोदय ने बताया कि पुरी में कुछ अहिन्दुओं के प्रवेश में कठिनाई थी। वहाँ पोलिटिकल लीडर्स की, वहाँ के सेवकों की और पंडितों की मीटिंग हुई। उसमें यह तय किया गया था कि जगन्नाथ जी का रख बाहर निकलता है 19 जून को, उस दिन वह देख लें और 19 जून को वह एक्सपर्ट आने को तैयार नहीं हैं। जून के महीने में वे नहीं जा सकते हैं और उसके बाद अगर वे लोग वहाँ गये और उनको अन्दर नहीं जाने दिया गया तो सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में कौन-सा रास्ता निकालेगी? आप जानते हैं कि वहाँ पर जो व्यवस्था है उसका पंखों से कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है। ऐसी स्थिति में अगर पंखों की जड़ के कारण या रुढ़िवादियों के कारण एक्सपर्ट्स को रोका जाएगा तो आप इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कदम उठा रहे हैं? दूसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सही है कि दो तीन महीने पहले उस मंदिर में एक पत्थर फिर गिर गया है और वहाँ की गवर्नमेंट ने इस सम्बन्ध में पत्र भी लिखा है, लेकिन अभी तक आपके डायरेक्टर, आर्कियोलॉजी अभी तक वहाँ नहीं गये हैं? मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि अभी तक वे वहाँ क्यों नहीं गये और सरकार इस मंदिर को ठीक करने के लिए क्या व्यवस्था कर रही है?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: Sir, I explained that there is

some opposition in some quarters for foreigners to visit the temple of Puri. Hence, the expert himself met the Chief Minister of Orissa where both of them were in Delhi and that alternative suggestion was made. But nothing is finalised as yet. We should not jump before we come to the stile. When the expert comes for the second time goes to Orissa, examine the Konarak temple the question of visiting the Puri temple will arise and at that time we will consider what can be done in view of the better ideas of the local pandas. I am also glad to tell you, Sir, that Mr. Samarendra Kundu, my esteemed colleague, who was in Paris recently had spoken to our ambassador there to see that the expert comes well in advance so that he can spend some time there to examine the temples very carefully.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Sir, I told him that one stone had fallen in the Puri temple and the Director of Archaeology has not gone in spite of the fact that the Orissa Government had requested him.

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: Sir, in regard to the Director going there, this is not necessary. This is because there are people who are working in the field. In Puri, the repair work is going on. There are some court cases. Because of this, there is some delay. Now, the work is going on. Sir, as you know, this is a big temple and there are so many stones. Sometimes in spite of best efforts, some such accidents might happen.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: It appears from the statement of the hon. Minister that the expert was to visit Konarak. But for the failure of the Indian Airlines, he was to go there, make a study on the spot study the other data, consult the technical experts and so, on, so that he would arrive at a decision. Here, my limited question to the hon. Minister is, when you arranged his visit to Konarak, simply because of the failure of the Indian Airlines, why could you not

[Shri Pranab Mukherjee] arrange it? Secondly, all along, you have been mentioning that he had discussions with you, he had discussions with the Chief Minister of Orissa and so on. You may be capable and competent in other areas, but you are not capable and competent so far as archaeology is concerned. I would like to know whether he had a discussion with the local experts here. Thirdly, when you had arranged a visit, when you had already booked a seat for him, when you had decided that he would go to Konarak, why could you not do it, if the Indian Airlines had failed, by arranging an Indian Air Force plane Or in other ways?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUN-DER: Hon. Mr. Mukherjee came rather late. He did not listen to my answer. The expert did not simply have discussions with me and with the Chief Minister of Orissa who are apparently laymen. He consulted our experts also and looked through the documents available. He wanted to go there. But because of the failure of the plane, cancellation of the flight, it was not possible. It is not possible to take an expert by an Indian Air Force plane. Perhaps, in Mr. Mukherjee's time, it would have been possible.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Even now, this was possible. You had taken JP by an Indian Air Force plane. You could have done so in this case. (Interruptions).

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUN-DER: We have taken this special step which was not done during the time when you were ruling the country.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, if I followed the Minister's statement properly, it was as per a programme that this expert was to come to this country. When it had been done as per a programme, it is supposed that care was taken on every aspect of it. Leave aside the question of flight. But in regard to the

question, of the entry of the expert to the Puri temple, this question would have cropped up later. The issue should have been sorted out earlier if it was contemplated that the expert should go both to the Konarak and Puri temples. There is another aspect of the question. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister and ask him whether any section of people Pandas or others, should be allowed to put hindrances in the way of the experts to see these temples for the purpose of advising on their proper preservation, whether untouchability should be allowed to extend to such a limit. I think that aspect of the question also comes within the Purview of the Minister's own department.

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUN-DER: Sir, as I explained, Puri temple is a living temple and this Government does not want to interfere with the religious susceptibility of the people who use the temple.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY: Sir, will the hon. Minister recall, when last time this question was raised on the floor of this House—I had asked a question as to the technical qualifications and credentials of the Archaeological Department people who are in charge of repairing the Puri temple—he had promised to lay the information on the Table of the House? As yet he has not done that. I would, therefore, repeat my query as to the technical qualifications and credentials of the people of the Archaeological Department of India who are in charge of repairing the Puri temple. There are two issues which are concerning the nation very much about maintenance of the two temples at Konarak and Puri. There has been a controversy. The local people and the local Government, both are at variance with the Government of India as to the methodology to be adopted in repairing the temples. I am sorry to say that the

Archaeological Department has behaved like neo-vandals which even the *kala pahar* would have hesitated to do, but the Archaeological Department has not hesitated to do so. As a result of this more damage has been done to the Puri temple. The hon. Minister has said that Prof. Lemaire, the UNESCO expert, was invited to examine the damage and then he says that the timing was not suitable. Obviously, the Government must have taken into account the time schedule when the United Nations' expert, who is obviously a non-Hindu, was being invited to examine this question. Thirdly, from Bhubaneswar Konarak is hardly 40 miles. I am really surprised why the Government of India could not arrange even an air-conditioned car so that the expert could have reached the Konarak temple and given his view. In the meantime, due to lack of proper maintenance, the temples at Puri and Konarak are undergoing further decay.

I would like the Minister to reply to the three points raised by me.

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: I strongly repudiate the charge that our experts are not competent people. They are taking part in international conferences with great credit. They are being invited to Afghanistan, Nepal and other foreign countries. Their services are appreciated all the world over. So, there was no such question, but to make the matter clear I had taken the help of the UNESCO and the UNESCO had deputed the expert here. But I do not understand how the expert from Delhi could be sent by an air-conditioned car to Konarak and Puri, I do not understand the suggestion.

SHRI, SHRIKANT VERMA: Sir, nowhere in the world are the temples and monuments so deserted and uncared for as in India. This is not the case of picking up certain temples or monuments and just cleaning them. The Government of India and the

Archaeological Department of India must undertake some surveys. I would like to know whether the Archaeological Department has recently undertaken or is going to undertake any survey of temples like those at Mahabalipuram, Khajuraho and other places. Is there any report with the Government of India that these temples are in a dilapidated condition?

I would also like to know whether the Government will evolve any restoration policy or not.

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: Sir, I require notice for this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Short Notice Question is over. Now papers to be laid.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. Report and Accounts (year ended the 30th June, 1975) of the Andhra Pradesh State Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Hyderabad and related papers.

II. Report and Accounts (1976-77) of the Himachal Pradesh Agro-Industries Corporation Limited, Simla and related papers.

III. Report (1976-77) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi.—Part H (Administration and Finance) and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table: —

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, Under subsection (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956: —

(i) (a) Seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Andhra Pradesh State Agro Industries Cor-

