

STATEMENT

The following repair works have been undertaken at Jama Masjid, Delhi:—

(i) Replacement of red sand stones with those of the best quality in cement mortar including fixing them with copper and stone dowels.

(ii) Filling the cavities and cracks behind the decayed stones including the core of the decayed walls with country brick masonry in best lime cement mortar as well as grouting of the cracks with liquid cement mortar after careful washing, and raking out the joints.

(iii) Providing and fixing new ornamental *darsa* and moulded ornamental base stones of pillars at different sections in the place of the decayed and broken ones.

(iv) Water tightening the traced roof over the main mosque after removal of the decayed top layer, including filling up of the cracks and cavities underneath the same, and the disposal of the *malwa* far away from the site of the work.

(v) Washing of the interior surfaces of the domes and walls to remove the salts, birds droppings and other foreign material on the same.

(vi) Replacement and treating of the various portions of the decayed white marbles at gates, minarets *muttakas*, arches, domes, the *mihrab* and niches as well as the inlay work on walls and floors.

(vii) Filling of the joints with liquid mortar mixed with colouring pigments and finishing with sunk pointing both inside and outside of the walls and roofs of the mosque with its gateways and *dalans* all round.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Are the experts of the Archaeological Department not being utilised for this purpose?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: Yes, Sir, the Archaeological Department has got its experts and they are supervising this work.

SHRI B. P. BASAPPA SHETTY: Does not the Jama Masjid come under the category of monuments preserved by the Government of India?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: No, Sir, it does not.

SHRI B. P. BASAPPA SHETTY: Then how is it that this work has been taken up by the Government of India?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: It has been treated as a special case.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: What are the estimates for these repairs?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: The total estimate of special repairs is Rs. 1,13,800.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Is it the total estimate that is going to be incurred or is it the sum that is going to be donated by the Government of India?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: It is the total expenditure.

MANUSCRIPT CONTAINING DETAILS OF
THE BUILDING OF TAJ MAHAL

*194. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the existence of a contemporary manuscript in the possession of one of the hereditary *khidmatgars* at Agra, wherein full details about the building of Taj Mahal at Agra are given;

(b) whether this manuscript has been examined by any expert, and if so, what is his view about the same; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to acquire this manuscript for being preserved in the National Archives of India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (DR. MONO MOHAN DAS): (a) to (c). Government have seen certain newspaper reports to this effect, but enquiries made have so far failed to locate such a manuscript or to determine the person in whose possession it is.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know whether any enquiries were made through this newspaper person who gave this information because that would have been the best source of locating the person?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: We do not agree that that would have been the best course for us. The *khadims* are under the employment of the Archaeological Department and they are still guarding the Taj Mahal. So we made a thorough enquiry amongst the *khadims* with whom this manuscript is supposed to lie, but they deny the existence of such a record.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINGH: There may be *ex-khadims* also.

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: I may submit to the hon. Member that these are hereditary *khadims* and after the father the son gets the job. They are the same families which are running from the time of Shah Jahan.

SHRI ABHIMANYU RATH: Is it not Indian property?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: Certainly it is Indian property—there is no challenging that.

SHRI ABHIMANYU RATH: If so why cannot this record be got?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: The record, according to our information, does not exist.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: What is the truth in the rumour that these manuscripts are being smuggled into Pakistan?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: It is very difficult to ascertain any truth in a rumour. I do not know.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Have these facts come to the notice of the Government and, if so, whether any steps have been taken to see that such things do not happen?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: We have made a thorough enquiry amongst these *khadims* with whom the newspaper reported that this manuscript lies, but on our enquiry these *khadims* have denied the existence of any such record.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: My question was in regard to these manuscripts being smuggled into Pakistan. Has this fact come to the Government's notice and if so what steps have been taken?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: Only the other day, when a Resolution of our friend, Dr. Raghubir Singh, was being discussed, one of the hon. Members mentioned that this particular record had been smuggled into Pakistan, but we have got no information about it.

ELECTRIFICATION OF AJANTA AND ELLORA CAVES

*195. SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether any decision has been taken about the electrification of the Ajanta and Ellora caves and if so, what?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (DR. MONO MOHAN DAS): No, Sir.

श्रीमती सावित्री निगम: क्या मंत्री महोदय को यह विदित है कि इलैक्ट्रिफिकेशन न होने के कारण दूर-दूर से आये हुए देशी और विदेशी दर्शक उन कला कृतियों का वह आनंद नहीं उठा पाते जो उन्हें उठाना चाहिये?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: The question is a very difficult one. Because of the following reason the work of electrification of the caves has to be done with great foresight and care so that the paintings can be seen to the best advantage and are not at the same time injured by strong light. There is every possibility that if the electric light is very strong and it keeps burning for a long time every day, then the paintings are liable to be injured. So the Director of Archaeology has expressed his desire to set up a committee of experts about this matter and we have to wait till the report of the committee comes.

श्रीमती सावित्री निगम: श्रीमन्, कितने दिनों में उम्मीद की जाती है कि यह कमेटी अपनी रिपोर्ट सबमिट करेगी?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: I am sorry I have got no information about that.

श्री देवकीनन्दन नारायण: क्या मंत्री महोदय से मैं यह जान सकता हूँ कि २६ केव्ज में से ४ केव्ज में इलैक्ट्रिक लाइट की तजवीज हो चुकी है? मैं जानना चाहूँगा कि इन केव्ज में क्यों नहीं इलैक्ट्रिसिटी की व्यवस्था की जा रही है?