

Conservation measures for Sun Temple at Konark

1120. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a Sub - Committee of the Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Director- General, ASI had recommended certain measures regarding improvements and conservation of the Sun Temple at Konark, particularly relating to saline action, water logging, mechanical erosion and vegetatives intrusion etc.;

(b) if so, the details of action taken by the ASI, the State Government of Odisha and the Central Government on the same;

(c) whether Government will expedite follow up action on short-term and long-term conservation measures to protect this world heritage monument within a specific time-frame; and

(d) if so, the time schedule worked out for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) On the recommendations of Sub- Committee the work for conducting various studies and investigations related to Sun Temple, Konark has been assigned to Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee. Scaffolding materials have been procured for replacement of old one. Unpaved drains and soak pits have been provided to prevent water logging. For peripheral development, control of saline action by growth of more trees, etc., surrounding land at Konark has been handed over to the Archaeological Survey of India by the State Government of Odisha.

(c) and (d) Conservation work of the monuments is a continuous process. For Sun Temple, Konark also the conservation work is attended regularly depending upon the need of repairs, availability of resources and as per archaeological norms and principles. Essential conservation measures are taken as and when necessity arises, hence the time-frame based approach is not suitable for ancient structures due to necessity for regular care and continuity of conservation action.