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Title: Need for sustainable restoration work to the Lord Jagannath Temple, Puri and Sun Temple, Konark, Odisha.

DR. RAJASHREE MALLICK (JAGATSINGHPUR): Thank you, Chairman Sir.

The famous temples of Lord Jagannath, Puri and the Sun Temple, Konark are situated in coastal areas of Odisha. Both the temples are 800 to 900 years old. There are beautiful sculptures and fine stone carving images. Due to the effect of saline climate and frequent occurrence of cyclones, the super sculptures and images are being destroyed day by day. The restoration work has been assigned to ASI. It is observed that the beautiful stone craft, sculptures and images are being replaced with plain stones.

Sir, though there are lots of stone craftsmen available in Odisha who can replicate such images, no steps are being taken to utilise the stone craftsmen for the purpose. Since these monuments are the destiny of lakhs of tourists, I would strongly recommend for their sustainable restoration. Thank you, Sir.