

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:85
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2003
JAPANESE ASSISTANCE FOR AJANTA-ELLORA CAVES
PRAKASH V. PATIL;RAJO SINGH

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have received any Japanese aid/assistance for upkeep and restoration of Ajanta-Ellora Caves in Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; (
- (c) whether Japan has decided to stop further aid to the project as their fact finding team has observed that aid provided by them has been diverted to some other works;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government have taken any steps towards restoration of Japanese aid and if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government have contemplated any plan for renovation of Ajanta- Ellora caves complex; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) & (g): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PART (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) & (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.85 TO ANSWERED ON 24.02.2003 REGARDING JAPANESE ASSISTANCE FOR AJANTA-ELLORA CAVES.

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Government of India entered into a loan agreement on 9th January, 1992 with the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan (now known as Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)) for Ajanta Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project (Phase I). The Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund loan assistance was to the tune of 3745 million Japanese Yen. The project was completed at a cost of Rs.127.50 crores approx. in March, 2002. The major components of the project were: Monument conservation; afforestation; extension of Aurangabad Airport; Roads, Water Supply & Sewerage; Electrical Power Supply and Visitors Management system. The cost of Monument conservation work was Rs.8.86 crores

(c) : No, Sir.

(d) & (e) : Does not arise.

(f) & (g): Government had formulated Phase II of project with an estimated outlay of Rs.522.07 crores. The major components of project were: Monument Conservation; Infrastructure Development, Tourism Development, Improvement of Aurangabad Airport and Afforestation. The project was duly recommended to Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance to take up the proposal with the Japanese Government for funding. JBIC has agreed in principle to provide the loan assistance (Approximately Japanese Yen 7331 million) for Phase-II.