

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:566

ANSWERED ON:23.02.2006

PHALGUNA SAKA KONARK SUN TEMPLE

Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari;Nikhil Kumar Shri ;Singh Kunwar Rewati Raman

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

(a)whether the Technical Committee constituted by the Archaeological Survey of India(ASI) has found cracks and structural weaknesses in Konark Sun Temple;

(b)if so, the details thereof;

(c)whether the Government has taken any steps for repairing the temple; and

(d)if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a)&(b)The technical committee constituted by the Archaeological Survey of India visited Sun Temple Konark on 16/1/2006 and observed that there is some distress at lower most row of the superstructure. However there is no threat to the structural stability of the temple.

(c)&(d)Steps are being taken to arrest the deterioration of exterior surface of the monument. These include removal of salt by paper pulp treatment, fungicidal treatment to contain micro-vegetational growth, consolidation of weathered stones and water repellent treatment, besides routine maintenance.

The cantilever members of the Super structure (Jagmohan) are supported with tubular scaffolding and stainless steel pins are used to consolidate the architectural members. ASI is also consulting the Central Building Research Institute for expert guidance for providing necessary reinforcement.