

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2107
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2008
CONSERVATION OF AJANTA ELLORA
Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Sai Shri Nand Kumar

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a),(b),(c),(d),(e)&(f) whether the Government proposes to undertake the conservation work of Ajanta Ellora;if so,the details thereof;whether the Japan Bank of International Cooperation has agreed to provide assistance for said work;if so, the details thereof along with the terms and conditions thereof;whether the Government has also informed the UNESCO's Worlds Heritage Centre in this regard; and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of UNESCO thereto?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE(SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) to (d)(e) & (f) Conservation of Ajanta-Ellora is an ongoing process. After successful completion of Phase I of the Ajanta-Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project with loan from Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC), an Agreement was signed with JBIC on 31st March 2003 under which work on Phase-II commenced in April 2004. The target date of completion is March 2009. The Executing Agency for the project is the Ministry of Tourism and the Implementing Agency for monument conservation is the Archaeological Survey of India. According to the Project Memorandum, a Panel of Experts has been constituted comprising 4 International and 4 Indian experts for monitoring and smooth implementation of the monument conservation component. In September 2002, a UNESCO Mission comprising three International experts inspected the works executed in Phase-I of the JBIC Project and noted that the work has been implemented in consonance with international and national conservation norms. ASI has kept UNESCO's World Heritage Centre informed, as necessary, regarding interventions in Phase-II.