

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2459
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2013
REPLICA OF AJANTA CAVES
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any proposal for preparing replicas of ancient caves in Ajanta has been received from the Government of Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto along with the financial assistance, if any, provided for the purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (DR. K CHIRANJEEVI)

(a) to (c): A loan agreement for an amount equivalent to Japanese Yen 7331 million (Rs.299 crore approx.) was signed with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in the year 2003 for Phase II of the Ajanta Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project. The construction of Cave Replicas at the Ajanta Visitor Centre at a projected cost of Rs.11.8 crore was initially one of the components of the project. However, due to delay in work, after consultation with JICA, Department of Tourism, State Government of Maharashtra and Maharashtra Tourism Development Cooperation (MTDC) the component was dropped from the JICA project. The MTDC is carrying out the work of Cave Replicas from the State Government funds.