

an>

Title: Need to take steps to protect Konark temple in Odisha.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Madam, I want to raise a matter of urgent public importance relating to the world wonder called, Konark Temple. It is under the Archaeological Survey of India for the last so many years ...(*Interruptions*). But what has happened is that every day the sand particles from the sand stones are dropping. They are being replaced not by artistic stone but by plain stones by the ASI. This has come out in different media not only in Odisha but also in the national newspapers...(*Interruptions*).

The temple that was destroyed some centuries ago is depleting day-after-day. The Archaeological Survey of India is not taking proper care for restoration of the temple...(*Interruptions*).

There are certain sites which are protected by the UNESCO. The Humayun's Tomb was one such protected monument which was restored up by the Aga Khan Trust and it has been restored fully. When we approached the ASI authorities and the Ministry of Culture, they said that they cannot do it, because it is a protected monument.

Madam, my request to the Government is that there is a need to have a new Law to protect them. जो हमारी धरोहर है, उनको उसी तरह लगाना चाहिए, and not like plain stones.

What is being said is that "we cannot do it." Then, let us change the law which is there prevalent since the colonial times. ...(*Interruptions*)

It is necessary to protect it. ...(*Interruptions*) We cannot create another Konark Temple. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra,

Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel,

Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena,

Dr. P.K. Biju and

Shri Nishikant Dubey are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab.

Now, Prof. A.S.R. Naik.

... (*Interruptions*)