

(b) whether it is also a fact that the paintings date back to 3,000 years BC; and

(c) if so, the details of the discovery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Department of Archaeology, Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported that some prehistoric rock paintings in the Akkamahadevi Guhalu have been noticed in the forest at about 10 km. from Srisaïlam, Mahaboob Nagar District and at Narsapur and Badia Villages in Warrangal District of the State. The paintings depict animal motifs such as antelopes, peacocks and human figures painted in red colour.

#### **Monuments of Muslim rulers**

2133. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

SHRI SABIR ALI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that ASI is deliberately allowing the monuments pertaining to Muslim rulers to decay; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps which are being taken to correct the approach?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The monuments are not classified on the basis of any religion. All protected monuments are equally treated. The monuments protected by ASI pertaining to Muslim rulers are in good state of preservation.

#### **Findings of Indus Valley**

2134. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent study conducted by Indian scientists in the Indus Valley has revealed new findings of the language and script like Tamil, Sanskrit and English used by the Indus Valley civilization;

(b) if so, the details of the findings; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to reach the bottomline about the emergency and evolution of human civilization in Indus Valley and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The Government is not aware of any such study. However, scholars like Shri I. Mahadevan (1970), R. Madhivanan (1993) claim that the Indus Script was Proto-Dravidian whereas Swamy Shankaranand (1964), Dr. S.R. Rao (1982) claim it to be Sanskrit (1996).

Further scholars B.B. Chakravorty (1976), Shanker Hazra (1976) say that the Indus Script was Indo-European.

In February, 2007, an International Symposium “Indus Civilization and Tamil Language” was organized at Chennai by the State Government of Tamil Nadu. Several scholars had participated in it but they failed to arrive at any consensus.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Monuments and archaeological sites in NER**

2135. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ancient monuments and archaeological sites under the protection of Central Government in N.E. Region in details;

(b) whether the National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities has taken into consideration the heritage site area of the district of Barpeta, Assam;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether in the interest of the development of heritage sites of various Municipal and Town areas like Barpeta, Sivsagar, Gauripur, etc. can be identified for the basic infrastructure facilities, urban services under the JNNURM;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) if so, the details of initiatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) There are 82 monuments/sites declared as of national importance in the N.E. Region. State-wise details are as under:—

Arunachal Pradesh	:	03
Assam	:	55
Manipur	:	01
Meghalaya	:	08
Nagaland	:	04
Tripura	:	08
Sikkim	:	03

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) Under the centrally sponsored Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT), which is implemented by the Ministry of Urban Development, all eligible towns as per Census 2001 excluding those covered under Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG) component of JNNURM, are eligible for access to financial assistance for the infrastructure development projects on admissible components. A list containing details of the projects and financial assistance granted to the towns of Assam including Barpeta and Gauripur is given in the enclosed Statement.