

(b) whether Government has prepared any time bound programme to provide computer facility in remaining post offices;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government proposes to provide the said facilities in all the main post offices within stipulated time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) The number of Post Offices in urban and rural areas which are equipped with computers facilities are as under:—

	In urban areas	In rural areas	Total
Computer facility	6686	2998	9684

As per the information available, 5544 Post Offices are equipped with broadband internet facility. Department of Posts does not provide e-mail facilities.

(b) to (e) Computerisation of Post Office is an ongoing programme and is being pursued in phased manner.

Discovery of Buddhist site in A.P.

2904. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Department of Archaeology and Museums, Andhra Pradesh has discovered a new Buddhist site in Rayavaram Mandal of Visakhapatnam; and

(b) 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. The Department of Archaeology, Government of Andhra Pradesh has discovered a Buddhist site at Pedauppalam (locally called-Pedauppalam Cheruvu) in March 2008 in S. Rayavaram Mandal of Vishakapatnam District of the State. Traces of Brick structures, a damaged Buddha image in Khondalite stone, early Historic pot sherds, fragments of stucco figures, large size bricks (50 × 25 × 7cm) are noticed at the site datable to 2nd Century AD.

Funds for protecting monuments in Orissa

2905. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the total funds released to protect the old historical rare monuments in Orissa like Konark temple, Puri Jagannath temple, Lingaraj temple and Buddha Pitha like Dhauli, Khandagiri, Ratnagiri, Lalitgiri and Udayagiri and Biraja temple Jajpur, Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SH. V. NARAYANASAMY): A fund allocation of Rs. 110.20 lakhs has been made during the current year for carrying out various protection and conservation works at these monuments. The monument-wise allocation is at the Statement.

Statement

The monument-wise allocation made during the current year

Sl. No.	Name of Monument	Allocation of funds for 2009-10 (Rupees in Lakhs)
1.	Sun Temple, Konark	27.00
2.	Lord Jagannath Temple, Puri	23.00
3.	Lord Lingaraj Temple, Bhubaneswar	14.00
4.	Ashokan rock-edict, Dhauli	0.50
5.	Jain Caves, Khandagiri	11.80
6.	Excavated Site, Ratnagiri	11.00
7.	Excavated Site, Lalitgiri	10.00
8.	Excavated Site, Udayagiri	8.00
9.	Biraja Temple, Jajpur	4.96
TOTAL:		110.20

Protection of historic cities

2906. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning measures to quickly devise the required steps that should be taken to recognize the historic cities as cultural artefacts that are worth protecting in each State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof especially in Andhra Pradesh where hundreds of years of history was involved in the muslim areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 provides for declaring ancient monuments, archaeological sites and remains as of national importance for their protection and conservation. There is no provision in the Act for declaring heritage cities as cultural artefacts.

(b) The Central Government has declared 3675 monuments and archaeological sites and remains in the country, including 137 in Andhra Pradesh under the Act as of national importance. The list of centrally protected monuments, archaeological sites and remains in Andhra Pradesh is given in the Statement.