

[14 March, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: This is a subject, I am talking from memory, which, I think is in List 2 of the Constitution. Every State Government has passed a law. Now, I think collectively our voice must be raised to say every State Government must take exemplary action against these money-lenders. Let them take action.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: The Centre should also try to find out ways and means...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I will write. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him say that the Government takes the action first.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: As far as the second part of the question is concerned, this relates to the Finance Bill. When I reply to the debate on the Finance Bill, I will deal with this question of section 80P.

### **Excavations undertaken by ASI**

\*324. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has undertaken excavations during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the details of new discoveries of historic significance made during the excavations by the different circles?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### ***Statement***

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India has undertaken excavations in various parts of the country during the last two years. State-wise details of these excavations carried out by various Circles and Branches, and historically significant discoveries made, is placed at Statement-I.

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† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kripal Parmar.

**Statement-I**

*Excavations carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India during last two years (2004-05 and 2005-06)  
showing details of discoveries of significance*

Sl. No.	Name of Site/ District	Year(s) of Excavation	Name of Circle/ Branch	Nature of discoveries made
1	2	3	4	5
DELHI				
1.	Tughluqabad Fort. Delhi GOA	2004-2005	Delhi Circle, Delhi	Excavations in the palace area at the Tughluqabad Fort revealed residential complex, ascribable to the mediaeval period. Copper coins, iron arrow-heads and spear-heads, glass bangles are among the antiquities recovered from excavation.
2.	St. Augustine Complex, District North Goa, Goa	2004-052005-06		Goa Circle, Goa The chapter chapel, having tombstones and burial chambers of the friars (brothers) of Augustinian order dating from 16th century were documented during the scientific clearance at St. Augustine Complex, Goa.

**GUJARAT**

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| 3. | Dholavira, District Kachchh     | 2004-05<br>(excavations continue since 1990)    | ASI HQs.,<br>New Delhi              | More information on water management and storage system engineered by the Harappans ( <i>circa</i> 3rd-2nd millennium B.C) in this city was brought to light. The rock-cut well, exposed earlier inside the Eastern Reservoir was excavated to its bottommost depths. Excavations of two Burial Mounds in the Harappan cemetery area revealed special pottery in association with steatite and semiprecious stone beads, gold ornaments, without evidence of human skeletal remains. |
| 4. | Juni Kuran,<br>District kachchh | 2004-05<br>(excavations continue since 2003-04) | Excavation<br>Branch V,<br>Vadodara | Excavations revealed the remains of fortified Harappan town enclosing substantial occupational deposits belong to the Mature and Late Harappan periods ( <i>circa</i> third/second millennium BC). Evidence of a massive earthquake that might have destroyed the whole Harappan town has been documented.   |

**JAMMU & KASHMIR**

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| 5. | Ancient site<br>BabourThalora) | 2004-05 | Srinagar Circle,<br>Srinagar | Structural remains of the Gupta period ( <i>circa</i> 4th-6th century AD) and the post-Gupta periods |
|----|--------------------------------|---------|------------------------------|--|
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1	2	3	5
	Manwal, District Udhampur		were discovered. The <b>structural</b> remnants of the post-Gupta period seem to belong to a temple.
	<b>HARYANA</b>		
6.	Bhirrana, District Fatehabad	200*05  Excavation Branch I, Nagpur	Evidences of habitation remains of the Early and Mature harappan periods, ascribable to <i>circa</i> third millennium BC (between <i>circa</i> 2800 and 2000 BC), were brought to light. Mature Harappan seals, copper artifacts, beads bangles, etc. are among the significant finds, datable to the third millennium BC.
7.	Hansi, District Hissar	2004-05  Excavation Branch II, Purana Qila, New Delhi	Excavations revealed habitation deposits starting from the Black and Red Ware ( <i>circa</i> 1200 BC), to the British times. Information on the house-complexes, associated with the granaries of the Rajput period was gathered. Two coin hoards of the bull and horseman type of the Rajput period were among the other significant finds recovered.
	<b>KARNATAKA</b>		
8.	Pattadakal, District Bagalkot	2004-05  Dharwar Circle, Dharwar	Structural remains of a temple datable to Chalukyan times were brought to light Besides;

				habitations remains of the Maharathis and the Satavahanas of the early centuries of the Christian era were also documented.
	MADHYA PRADESH			
	9.	Bhimbetka, District Raisen	2004-05	Bhopal Circle, Bhopal
				Excavations at rock Shelter No. ASI28, yielded .tone tools, namely blades, crescents, triangles, cores and scrapers of the Mesolithic period besides those of the Lower, Middle and Upper Palaeolithic.
	MAHARASHTRA			
23	10.	Daulatabad Fort, District Aurangabad	2004-05 2005-06	Aurangabad Circle, Aurangabad
				Habitational remains detable from the Yadava period (11th century AD.) to the Late Mughal period (18th century A.D.) were exposed. discovery of a large number of copper and gold coins of various dynasties have enabled to date different cultural levels at the site.
	RAJASTHAN			
	11	Baror, District Ganganagar	2004-05	Excavation Branch ill, Patna
				Habitational remains of Early and Mature Harappan periods dating 3rd/2nd millennium BC were unearthed. Among the important finds included steatite seals, copper and stone artifacts, beads of semi-precious stones, bangles, etc.

1	2	3	4	5
	TAMIL NADU			
12.	Adichhanallur, District Tuticorin	2004-05	Chennai Circle, Chennai	The excavations revealed,nearly 160 um burials of Iron Age, and contemporary habitational deposite indicated by the floor levels, etc. Iron objects like dagger, knife, spearhead, sword, and fraffiti marks on pottery were also recovered.
13.	Mahabalipuram, District Kanchipuram	2004-05	Underwater Archaeology Wing,ASI HQs., New Delhi	Underwater investigations conducted near submerged rocks at a depth of 6 to 8 m, near the Shore Temple, brought to light human activities in the form of excavation of geometric patterns on these rocks and stones. Remains of two structural temples were also unearthed to the south of Shore Temple.
14.	Saluvankuppam, District Kanchipuram UTTAR PRADESH	2005-06	Chennai Circle, Chennai	Excavation conducted near the Tiger Cave brought of light the remains of a brick temple of the pre-Pallava period. On plan, the temple consisted of a <i>garbhagriha</i> , an <i>ardhamandapa</i> and a <i>mukhamandapa</i> .
15.	FatehpurSikri, District Agra	2004-05	Agra Circle, Agra	A <i>hammam</i> complex of the Mughal period (16th century A.D.) showing elaborate arrangement within the complex was brought to light.

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| 16. | Sanauli,<br>District<br>baghpat | 2005-06 | Excavation<br>branch II,<br>Purana Qila,<br>New Delhi | The excavations brought to light a large number of late Harappan graves, furnished with grave furniture hitherto unknown, with or without human skeletons, but all with specially manufactured pottery vessels, some of the human skeletons interred were bedecked with ornaments. Discovery of a copper antenna sword, and its sheath from one of the burials is by far the most noteworthy find from the site. |
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**WEST BENGAL**

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|-----|---|---------|----------------------------|---|
| 17  | Mound adjacent<br>to Baisgazi, wall<br>known as Palace<br>area of ancient<br>Gaur, District<br>Maldah | 2004-05 | Kolkata Circle,<br>Kolkata | Structural remains dating from the Sultanate ( <i>circa</i> 15th century A.D.) to the Mughal period ( <i>circa</i> 17th century A.D.) were unearthed. Excavation of a huge palace complex of the Sultanate period was among the noteworthy discovery. |
| 18. | Nilkuthi mound,<br>District<br>Murshidabad  | 2005-06 | Kolkata Circle,<br>Kolkata | Habitational remains dating from 2nd-3rd century A.D. to 15th-16th century AD were brought to light. Terracotta deities of Brahmanical and Buddhist pantheon are among noteworthy finds.  |

**श्री कृपाल परमार:** माननीय सभापति जी, माननीय मंत्री महोदया ने प्रश्न का जो उत्तर दिया है, उसमें पिछले दिनों एसआई ने जो एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण खोज की है, वह छूट गई है। इसलिए मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदया के ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूँ कि मध्य प्रदेश के अन्दर जो...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री सभापति:** आप क्वेश्चन करिए।

**श्री कृपाल परमार:** मध्य प्रदेश के अन्दर खुदाई के दौरान कई मूर्तियाँ मिली हैं और साथ ही उस खुदाई के दौरान एक पूरा नया मंदिर अस्तित्व में आया है, लेकिन पैसों की कमी के कारण उसका रख-रखाव ठीक से नहीं हो पा रहा है। माननीय मंत्री महोदया से जानना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसे नए अस्तित्व में आए हुए मंदिर का रख-रखाव ठीक से हो सके, उसके लिए क्या वह पैसा उपलब्ध कराएंगी?

**श्रीमती अम्बिका सोनी:** सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय सदस्य को बताना चाहती हूँ कि एक्सकेवेशन के दौरान, जैसी कि जवाब में भी स्पष्ट किया गया है, बहुत सी जानकारी हासिल हुई हैं। मध्य प्रदेश में पिछले दो वर्षों में जो भी एक्सकेवेशन हुए हैं, उनमें इस तरह से किसी मंदिर के होने की जानकारी हमें नहीं मिली है, लेकिन अन्य बहुत सी जानकारी हमें प्राप्त हुई हैं। जहां-जहां किसी भी एक्सकेवेशन के दौरान किसी हिस्टोरिकल मॉन्युमेंट की हमें जानकारी मिलती है, तो मैं माननीय सदस्य को बताना चाहती हूँ कि ऑर्कियोलोजिकल सर्वे के जरिए इस तरह के 3776 मोनूमेंट्स की देखरेख हो रही है और स्टेट गवर्नमेंट भी अपने स्तर से तकरीबन 5000 मोनूमेंट्स की देखरेख करती है। साधनों का अभाव है और जैसे-जैसे हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि साधन और उपलब्ध हों, हम ज्यादा से ज्यादा मोनूमेंट्स को देखरेख में लाना चाहते हैं। लेकिन उस दरम्यान हम चाहते हैं कि कुछ एक पार्टनरशिप बने जिससे आम जनता को भी मोनूमेंट्स की देखरेख में जोड़ा जाए और जो चोरियाँ, एंक्रोचमेंट इस तरह से मोनूमेंट्स में हो रही हैं, उनको बिल्कुल रोका जाए।

**श्री कृपाल परमार:** माननीय सभापति महोदय, जैसा कि माननीया मंत्री महोदया ने बताया कि 3000 से ज्यादा मोनूमेंट्स की जांच एसआई करती है और 5000 की विभिन्न राज्य सरकारें मिल कर के देखरेख करती हैं। मैं मंत्री महोदया के ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूँ कि केन्द्र और प्रदेशों का एक संयुक्त प्रयास न होने के कारण अलग-अलग दाव लगाने के कारण वहां पर चोरियाँ की घटनाएं बढ़ी हैं। मैं माननीया मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या कोई ऐसा प्रयास करेंगी जिससे केन्द्र और प्रदेश सरकारें मिलकर इन मोनूमेंट्स को बचाने का प्रयास करें और जो धन की कमी आती है, उसको पूरा करने की जिम्मेदारी केन्द्र सरकार ले?

**श्री अम्बिका सोनी:** महोदय, मैंने तो इस दूसरे प्रश्न का जवाब पहले ही दे दिया कि केन्द्र और प्रदेशों के द्वारा तकरीबन 11 हजार मोनूमेंट्स की देखरेख होती है। हमारे देश में हजारों-हजारों की तादाद में मोनूमेंट्स हैं- बड़े, छोटे और मध्यम वर्ग के। अब केन्द्र और प्रदेश दोनों मिलकर भी करें जो साधनों का इतना अभाव है कि आज वित्त मंत्री जी यहां होने का फायदा उठाते हुए मैं चाहूंगी कि मान्यवर सदस्य हम लोगों की मदद करें कि हमारी धनराशि काटने की जगह और बढ़ाई जाए, क्योंकि 7 करोड़ ऑर्कियोलोजिकल सर्वे के लिए काफी नहीं है।



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**श्री कृपाल परमार:** मैं माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से निवेदन करता हूँ कि वे मंत्री महोदया की बात का ध्यान रखें।

**SHRI R. SARATH KUMAR:** Thank you, Mr. chairman, Sir. I am glad that many places are restored but I would like to know from the hon. Minister on the maintenance part of it. Many of the monuments in the country go back to four thousand years in history and many of the monuments are not maintained properly. Is there going to be an expert committee watching the maintenance part of it more than the excavation part of it and trying to restore the heritage?

**SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:** Sir, I was speaking about maintenance only after the excavation, which is given in the written reply.. There are 11,000 monuments, not sites, which are under the supervision, care and Protection of the Archaeological survey of India and the States. I appreciate the States. I appreciate the concern of the hon. Member when he said that a larger number of monuments should have a better care. It is with that point of view that a National Cultural Fund has been started where we can involve private players in the maintenance of cultural heritage. This fund, till now, was indicating which monument would be looked after by a private concern, a private party or an industrial house, and it was done by the Archaeological Survey of India. But, due to paucity of personnel with the Archaeological of India, we are now liberalizing it to say that even the private parties who contribute to the National Cultural Fund can, through approved curator, specialists and other trained people, look after, preserve and protect such monuments.

**SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:** MR. CHAIRMAN, Sir, the hon Minister was referring to excavation and maintenance. I would like to concentrate on maintenance of museums by the Archaeological Survey of India. We visited some of the museums which were in bad shape. They are not properly maintained. There is no proper staff to explain when people visit those museums.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Come to your question, please.

**SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:** Sir, I am putting my question. ...*(Interruptions)*...What is being done at State level because some of them are handed over to the States also?... *(Interruptions)*... I would like to know from the hon. Minister the steps taken for improvement and proper

maintenance of these museums. ... *(Interruptions)*. ..I saw in China that museums are properly maintained ... *(Interruptions)*... My Left friends will be very happy... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Please see the people who are coming there...*(Interruptions)*... Therefore, I would like to know the steps being taken for improving the museums, which are run or maintained by the Archaeological survey of India.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: The Minister has to go to China first.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, if I understand correctly, ... *(Interruptions)*...the hon. Member wants to know what are the steps being taken by the Department of Culture in preserving the museums in this country. This is a very gigantic task, no doubt, and there is a lot of scope for improvement. I would be grateful if the hon. Member were not to make comparative studies because the systems of preserving and improving are different in our country from any other country.

The society of National Museums, the Institute of History and Art and Conservation and Museology in Delhi and there are a lot of other such institutions which have been put up to improve the museums already under the care of the Department of culture. I would like to mention that the National Art Museums in Delhi, Mumbai and bow in Bangalore have really seen a bit of upgradation and better tabulations of their records and there are 4\* such museums looked after the the ASI. I would like the hon. Member to visit some of the museums, which have been upgraded, and the facilities improved in the form of guides so that he would himself appreciate that in this gigantic task many steps have been taken. Still more has to be done.

DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Mr. chairman, sir, thank you very much. Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister that although what she is saying in theory is correct but actually the situation in most of these excavation sites in the places where monuments exist is actually quite pathetic. There is not enough fencing around it and there are no signages. And the second point is that when she is talking about the scheme to involve private players, not enough people come forward because there is no gain for them. So, does the Government have a scheme whereby ticketing is to be introduced in many of these places that are found in which the private players can also be given a certain portion of the collections that are derived from them?

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SHRIMATI AMBIKASONI: Yes, Sir, those private players who have felt enthused to look after the places of cultural heritage in our country have done it for the same spirit as the hon. Member asks me this question, that is, our cultural sites are to be kept better and to help in the paucity of funds of the ASI. They are allowed to put small signages indicating the business house or the private party who has contributed for maintaining that building. I do not think this a *quid pro quo* to maintain a spot or a site or cultural heritage and it is in the spirit of protecting the national cultural heritage I think it has to be a continuous endeavour on the part of our Ministry as well as private citizens to see that the National Cultural Fund increase and the more number of museums are brought under the protection of the ASI and other organizations. But I would like to inform the hon. Member that those 16 world heritage sites and those 3776 sites which are being protected by the ASI, they have signages. I have been to some of them myself and am planning in the next couple of months, in the inter-Session, in the longer inter-Session to invite the Members of the Standing Committee to visit these sites and give suggestions for further improvement.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, sir, this is indeed a vast area and at your discretion, maybe at some later time we can have a full discussion on it, now that we have a dynamic and imaginative Minister. Sir, my question is: there is a tradition in Mahabalipuram that there were seven temples. Six of which have gone under the ocean and only, one small temple in Mahabalipuram is remaining. I understand, that after the Tsunami the two old temples that were submerged have once again emerged in Mahabalipuram. Would the Minister like to give us some light on this very exciting development?

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, I am afraid we have moved away from the original question which was about the excavations undertaken by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture in the last two years. It is a fact that this discovery was made after the recent Tsunami. The State Government has been given additional funds to the tune of Rs. 5 crores to the areas which were damaged and new areas which emerged. I am afraid, at the moment I do not have exactly the details as to what the plans for the new discoveries are. But, I would like to assure the Member that whatever has come up, despite the fact that Tsunami was not a good thing, whatever we have discovered we are going to preserve it with all the care we can.

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Thank you, Sir. Sir, the Minister has given the list of excavations for the last two years, State-wise. Sir, according to my knowledge many projects are pending with regard to Andhra Pradesh

in her Ministry. There is not even one project in the list. I would like to know from the hon. Minister if there are any projects pending from Andhra Pradesh; and, secondly, East Godavari which belongs to Andhra Pradesh, one Aduru is there. In the last ten years, one Boudha Stupa was excavated. But there are no funds for Boudha Stupa. Will the Minister allocate some funds for the protection of Boudha Stupa?

SHRIMATI AMBIKASONI: Sir, this list pertains only to the excavations undertaken in the last two years. I am sorry that there is no mention of any excavation in the State of Andhra Pradesh. But, excavations are decided upon by the ASI and also recommended by universities and other academic bodies; Unfortunately, no recommendations for excavation in Andhra Pradesh has yet come up for implementation. The hon. Member referred to a temple, which has been discovered recently. As I mentioned already, discoveries are being made, as you see from the written replies also, from every excavations undertaken. But it is still not possible for the ASI or even for the State Governments to protect and improve upon all the discoveries made after excavations because of the shortage of funds. But, we are trying to augment our efforts to mobilise more resources through the National Cultural Fund.

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Thank you, Sir. Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister that is it a fact that the Director General of ASI has admitted that several archaeologists have excavated sites and they have not been reported. This has been blamed on lack of infrastructure at ASI and several Standing Committees in the past have also taken note of it in a very adversarial manner. It is also a fact that two or three Committees were set up, the R. N. Mirdha Committee and B. B. Lal Committee, to look into this aspect. I would like to ask the hon. Minister that has their report been considered, accepted and implemented and if not, what are the proposals because, Sir, in any excavation site, artefacts from the excavation that if unreported can be smuggled, can be sold and it is the national wealth that would be lost.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, I would like to assure the hon. Member that it is not legally allowed-she would know herself-for any individual or anybody to undertake excavations without permission or licence. If any such thing has happened, it is not in the knowledge of the ASI.

Sir, as far as the Report of the Standing Committee is concerned, there is no doubt that the Standing Committee has given a very detailed Report on the functioning of the ASI. That Report is under very active consideration

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of this Ministry. In short time, whatever results come from that active consideration, I will inform the hon Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

### **WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS**

#### **Progress of Water Management Programmes**

\*325. SHRIMATI S.G INDIRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that restructured Command Area Development and Water Management Programme have into achieved the desired results and it is progressing at snail's speed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what was the total area in which the work has been completed under the said programme so far, and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to accelerate the speed of work under the said programme?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) No, Sir. The progress under restructured command Area Development and Water Management Programme has been satisfactory except for the new components of correction of system deficiencies up to distributaries of 150 cusec capacity and the renovation of Minor Irrigation Tanks included under the Programme with effect from 01-04-2004. The States are in a transition phase to implement these new components.

(b) For implementation of new components of correction of systems deficiencies up to distributaries of 150 cusec capacity and the renovation of Minor Irrigation Tanks, formation of legalized Water Users' Association is a pre-requisite, which is taking time as the States have enact a new Participatory Irrigation Management Act or make amendments in the existing Irrigation Act to facilitate formation of Water Users' Associations and signing of Memorandum of Understanding with them. Once, the transition phase is over, the progress under these activities will pick up.

(c) Since inception of restructured command Area Development & Water Management Programme with effect from 1.4.2004 until now the State Governments have reported cobverage of an area of 6.54 lakh ha., 2.26