

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Balaji Ghat of Varanasi is a private property and not a protected monument of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Hence, there is no proposal of ASI to take up the conservation work here.

Preservation of site of Battle of Saraighat in Guwahati

2353. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps has the Ministry taken for preservation of the archaeological sites of Assam, especially the site of the Battle of Saraighat in Guwahati;

(b) whether materials of such importance are preserved in the museum of Assam; and

(c) whether the Ministry has provided grant to State museum and propose to open new museums in the State?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The site of the Battle of Saraighat in Guwahati is not protected site/monument neither by Archaeological Survey of India nor by State Archaeology Department Assam.

(b) A victory pillar stone inscription of the Battle of Saraighat is now preserved in the Assam State museum, Guwahati.

(c) The Ministry of Culture, Government of India has sanctioned Rs 3.00 Crore (Rupees three crore) only as one time financial assistance to the Assam State Museum Management Society during 2007-08 for the "Development of Infrastructure of the Assam State Museum".

Proposals for developmental works of archaeological sites in MP

†2354. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise names of archaeology survey, archives and museums for which proposal for various works has been received by the Ministry from Madhya Pradesh Government;

(b) the current status of such proposals;

(c) whether any time-limit has been set for disposal of such proposals;

(d) whether too much time taken in sanctioning such proposals obstructs the developmental works; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.