

1	2	3	4	5
29.	Uttaranchal	42	Dehradun	42
30.	West Bengal	133	Kolkatta	133
	Total	3677	Total	3677

**Protection of graves of Ahom rulers**

3132. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of the fact that the Graves of the Ahom rulers known as Maidams need to be preserved and protected as Heritage sites;

(b) if so, whether there is any plan to declare the burial sites as Heritage sites; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir. As per Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules 1959, there is no provision to declare or recognize as Heritage Sites. The sites are declared as Protected under the said Act. Accordingly, the Group of four Maidams, the Graves of the Ahom rulers, is a protected monument of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). The conservation work of these Maidams is attended regularly and they are in a good state of preservation.

**Proposal to Institute a set of National  
Professorships in Epigraphy**

3133. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has formulated a proposal to institute a set of National Professorships in the field of Epigraphy;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) what is the present status of the proposal; and

(d) by when they are likely to be instituted?