

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH):

(a) There have been several attempts by some organizations to revive prayers at various non-living centrally protected monuments since 1979.

(b) and (c) As per provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Rules, 1959, permission cannot be granted to start any new practices at the monument which was not in vogue at the time of its protection. Hence, question of granting permission for such purposes does not arise.

Finalization of policies on archaeology

644. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has failed to monitor and take suitable action, to accelerate the finalization of some important policies/legislations like Conservation Policy, National Policy of Excavation and Exploration, Antiquities and Art Treasure Act 1972 and Policy of Acquisition, Preservation and Conservation of Antiquities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government is going to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH):

(a) to (c) No Sir. Every care is taken by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for to conservation and preservation of protected monuments, antiquities and conduct excavation as well as exploration activities under existing Acts, rules and regulations. The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act has already been revised and made more comprehensive in 2010 whereas other related Acts/policies are under review for updation.

Excavation at Daundia Kheda village in Unnao

645. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the approval of the Standing Committee of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology (CABA) had been obtained before starting excavation at Daundia Kheda village in Unnao district of UP; if so the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the total expenditure incurred so far on the excavation vis-a-vis the outcome of the excavation; and