

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

(c) the preventive steps taken by Government to avoid such futile exercise in future?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH):

(a) Since the last date for submission of excavation proposals for consideration by the Standing Committee of Central Advisory Board of Archaeology was 31st July, the approval for conducting trial excavations at Daundia Kheda village in district Unnao, UP, had been granted by the Director General, Archaeological Survey of India.

(b) and (c) An expenditure of Rs. 2,78,751/- (Rupees two lakh seventy eight thousand seven hundred fifty one only) was incurred on the trial excavations at the site. During excavations, black slipped ware, black and red ware, Northern Black Polished Ware and associated red ware besides, terracotta beads, bone points, glass bangles, iron nails, hopscotch, fragment of a stone lion figure and animal bones were found from different levels. The excavations established that the antiquity of the goes back to circa first millennium B.C. Since the potentiality of the site was already established because of the ruined fort datable to 18th century AD. and the investigations carried out in 1860s and later, besides geo-physical survey undertaken by the Geological Survey of India, the excavations conducted by ASI was part of routine nature of job and hence it was not a futile exercise.

Preservation and conservation of cultural heritage in Jharkhand

646. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the objectives regarding preservation and conservation of India's rich cultural heritage during the Tenth and Eleventh Plan period;

(b) how far these objectives have been achieved;

(c) how the Twelfth Five Year Plan addresses these issues; and

(d) the details of steps taken to preserve and conserve cultural heritage in Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH):

(a) and (b) The major objectives have been on the implementation of a comprehensive Plan for the conservation and preservation of archaeological heritage and development of the monument complexes & museums and providing basic minimum visitor's facilities in all World Heritage Monuments and sites during the Tenth & Eleventh Plan Periods.