

- (c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH) : (a) to (c) Conservation and preservation work of all centrally protected monuments including Buddhist monuments/relics is attended by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) regularly and there is no separate policy for preservation of Buddha's relics.

Excavation by ASI under Unnao, U.P.

1420. SHRI DEVENDER GOOD T. : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the progress of gold excavation in Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) the sequence of events/proposals that led to taking up of excavation of gold at Unnao;
- (c) what Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) found from the site; and
- (d) whether it is fact that ASI is going to excavate at another site close to Ganga, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH) : (a) to (c) Archaeological Survey of India had taken up the trial excavation work at Daundia Kheda village in district Unnao, UP, based on the potential of the site as reflected in earlier reports about the site and also keeping in view the report of Geological Survey of India's preliminary investigations and to understand the nature of the site which was identified in 1860s with a 7th century AD. settlement.

The trial excavation at the site was started on 18.10.2013 and closed on 14.11.2013. 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 site goes back to *circa* first millennium B.C.

- (d) No, Sir.