बताने में बहुत खुशी हो रही है कि इस संस्थान के सीनेट मेम्बर के रूप में मुझे नामित किया गया है। जैसा कि विदित है कि यह संस्थान वर्ष 1959 में बना तथा वर्तमान में इसमें लगभग 18,000 छात्र अध्ययन कर रहे हैं। यह संस्थान संस्कृति मंत्रालय से संबद्ध स्वायत्त निकाय संस्थान है, जिसका मुख्य कार्य बौद्ध दर्शन में शोध का कार्य, इतिहास, कला तथा बौद्ध अध्ययन में अनुसंधान विशेष है। इसका उद्घाटन 14वें दलाई लामा के दवारा किया गया था। संस्थान का मुख्य उददेश्य बोधिसत्व में अध्ययन कराना है।

उपसभापित महोदय, मैं सदन के माध्यम से यह निवेदन करता हूं कि नियुक्ति हेतु जो विज्ञापन जारी किया गया है, उसी के आधार पर उपकुलपित की नियुक्ति जल्द से जल्द हो एवं वहां कार्यरत प्राध्यापकों एवं कर्मचारियों की लम्बे समय से रुकी हुई पदोन्नित जल्द से जल्द हो। इसके अतिरिक्त अभी हाल के 2 वर्षों में हुई नियुक्ति एवं पदोन्नित की जांच हेतु कमेटी गठित की जाए ताकि अयोग्य व्यक्ति उस पद पर न बैठ सके, धन्यवाद।

Concern over omission of tourism sites in Odisha from the list of 17 iconic tourism sites

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, recently, 17 iconic tourism sites were announced to be developed into 'world class tourist destinations' and serve as exemplars for other sites. This would increase domestic and international tourists at these destinations. However, the lack of any site from Odisha is a stark omission. Tourism contributes 13 per cent of the State's GDP and requires a strategic boost. The vast array of significant sites in Odisha includes the Konark Sun Temple, which, built in the 13th century AD, is one of India's oldest UNESCO sites (since 1984). It is also one of the tallest temples ever built. Next, the Ratnagiri-Lalitgiri-Udaygiri complex has the largest concentration of Buddhist remains in Odisha. Some monasteries date as far back as 1st century AD and were chronicled by the famous Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang during his visit to Kalinga. In its recent reply, the Tourism Ministry stated that primarily promotional activities had been undertaken for Odisha's Buddhist circuit. Development projects have been sanctioned for Buddhist sites in other States, but not in Odisha. Other sites include Chilika Lake (India's second largest Ramsar wetland), Bhitarkanika (one of the largest mangrove eco-systems in India) and Simlipal National Park. In July this year, the hon. Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik, wrote a letter to the Ministry of Tourism and Culture requesting, at least, two of the above mentioned sites be adopted into the list of 17 iconic sites. I demand that the Ministry should consider the inclusion of two such sites in its list for subsequent development.

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Dr. Amar Patnaik.