

**Historical remains found in Andhra Pradesh**

185. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has found early historical remains of the current era in Gottiprolu, Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh, if so, details of the discovery; and

(b) the details of the exact remains that the ASI could find and steps taken by the Ministry to excavate and preserve them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI PRAHALAD SINGH PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. The excavation at Gottiprolu in SPSR Nellore, Andhra Pradesh during 2018-19 brought to light early historic remains datable to 1st BCE - 8th century CE.

(b) The artefacts of terracotta, semi-precious stones and glass; copper & iron objects, stone tools, pestles & sling balls have been found along with burnt brick structural remains. The ASI is continuing the excavation during 2019-20 along with preservation of the early historical period remains including artefacts.

**Zonal cultural centres**

186. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCC) are making any progress in terms of protecting local art forms, if so, the details of each ZCC;

(b) the amount of fund allocated and utilised by the seven ZCC for the last three years; and

(c) what are the funds allocated and the cultural activities undertaken to preserve the culture of Haryana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI PRAHALAD SINGH PATEL): (a) To protect, promote and preserve the various forms of folk art and culture including local art forms throughout the country, the Government of India has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) with headquarters at Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Prayagraj, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur. These ZCCs organize various cultural activities and programmes on regular basis all over India to protect, preserve,