

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO-208
ANSWERED ON 16.12.2021

STATUS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN CENTRAL INDIA

208. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the knowledge on Chalcolithic cultures of Central India is quite feeble since no major archaeological excavation has been conducted either by State or Central Government in the 21st century and the present knowledge is based mainly upon the excavations at Kayatha, Dangwada, Eran and Besnagar in the 1970s-1980s;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Archaeological Survey of India has any plan to excavate a few potential sites in Central India to place the Protohistoric culture in right chronological perspective and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

- (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY PART (A) TO (C) OF THE RAJYA
SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *208 FOR 16.12.2021**

- (a) No, Sir. The Chalcolithic cultures of Central India are adequately investigated and
& studied. Much of their aspects are sufficiently researched and analyzed. During last
- (b) field season 2020-21, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) carried out excavations at
two prominent sites of Chalcolithic affiliations in Central India in the state of Madhya
Pradesh. The details are at Annexure.
- (c) During field season 2021-22, ASI has received proposals for excavations at the sites of
Chalcolithic affiliations at Eran, district Sagar and at Tewar, district Jabalpur (Madhya
Pradesh).

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 208 FOR 16.12.2021**

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EXCAVATION AT ERAN DURING 2020-21

Eran (ancient Airikina) is situated on the left bank of the Bina (ancient Venva) river and surrounded by it on three sides. Eran is located 75 km north-west from Sagar district headquarter. The recent excavation at this site, during 2020-21, has unearthed a variety of antiquities including a copper coin, an iron arrowhead, terracotta bead, stone beads along with a copper coins, stone celt, beads of steatite and jasper, glass, carnelian, terracotta wheel, animal figurines, miniature pots, iron objects, stone querns, pestles and a red slipped terracotta with inscription in Devnagari. The occurrence of few specimens of plain, thin grey ware is noteworthy. The use of iron was evidenced by few metallic objects at the site. This excavation at the site also revealed the remains of Chalcolithic culture with four major periods i.e. Period I: Chalcolithic (18th -7th BCE), Period II: Early historic (7th - 2nd century BCE), Period IIB: 2nd century BCE - 1st century CE, Period III: 1st – 6th century CE and Period IV: late medieval (16th - 18th century CE).

EXCAVATION AT TEWAR DURING 2020-21

Tewar (Tripuri) village is located 12 km west of Jabalpur district on Jabalpur – Bhopal highway. The ancient site of Tripuri is situated nearly 2 km south west from Tewar village. During 2020-21 ASI conducted excavation of Tewar at two locations, TWR 1 and TWR 2. This excavation did not reach the natural soil and revealed four folds of cultural sequences i.e. Kushana, Shunga, Satvahana, and Kalachuri. Antiquarian remains in this excavation include viz., remains of sculptures, hopscotch, terracotta balls, Iron nails, copper coins, terracotta beads, implements of Iron and terracotta figurine, in ceramics red ware, black ware, red| slipped ware with shapes of handi, bowl, spouted pot, small pot, big jar, etc., structural remains consist of brick wall and structure of sandstone columns.