

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OCEAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:699

ANSWERED ON:05.03.2002

DISCOVERY OF HARAPPAN ARTEFACTS IN THE GULF OF CAMBAY

BRAHMANAND MANDAL;N.T. SHANMUGAM

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) has recently discovered a number of Harappan and pre-harappan ancient artefacts in the gulf of Cambay, especially on the coast of Gujarat;
- (b) whether these archaeological remains indicate that the ancient city of Dwarka existed there;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the site is likely to be declared a national monument; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) : The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai of the Department of Ocean Development (DOD), Government of India had during the course of under water surveys in the Gulf of Cambay, Gujarat come across a stretch of formations typical of a riverine regime in the middle of the sea at 30-40 m water depth. An area of almost 9 km. stretch west of Hazira in Gujarat appeared to be lined with well laid house basement like features partially covered by sand waves and sand ripples. The Side Scan Sonar deployed for the survey picked up images which indicate several geometric objects that are normally man made. During subsequent surveys various object/artefacts were picked up from the sea bed. Whether these are Harappan or Pre- Harappan can be determined only after more detailed investigations.

(b) & (C) : The National Institute of Oceanography , Goa have in the past under taken marine archeological explorations off Dwarka, Bet Dwarka and Somnath. The present site in the Gulf of Cambay is however different from these sites.

(d) & (e) : According to Archaeological Survey of India this site cannot be declared a National Monument at this stage, as the findings have to be confirmed through further detailed surveys and investigations.