

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1217
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2002
RELIGIOUS CENTRE OF BHARHUT
RAMANAND SINGH

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Bharhut area of Satna district had been a religious centre of Buddhism and its reminiscents are still there;
- (b) if so, whether famous statues of Buddhism were taken to England during British Rule which are still in British museum and some of them are displayed in the Kolkata museum;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government of India so far to get back these statues; and
- (d) the steps the Government propose to take to restore the importance of this Buddhist centre?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

- (a) Yes, Sir. Bharhut was a religious centre of Buddhism in the 2nd century B.C. The remains of the site in the form of mounds and structural remains still exist and are under the protection of the Archaeological Survey of India.
- (b)&(c) Government does not have verifiable information regarding famous statues of Buddhism which were taken to London during British period. In the 19th century, parts of the railings and gateway of Buddhist stupa were removed to the Indian Museum, Kolkata where they are now displayed.
- (d) The site is under the protection of the Archaeological Survey of India, proper care is taken for its preservation.