

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3791

ANSWERED ON:23.12.2004

SARASWATI PLAN

Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Nikhil Kumar Shri ;Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry has set up a panel to revive Saraswati Plan;

(b) if so, whether this project was launched 2 years ago to establish existence of indigenous Harappan civilization along the mythical river, which is stretched from Shivaliks to the Arabian Sea;

(c) if so, to what extent the panel has revived this plan; and

(d) the extent to which it has been accepted and implemented?

Answer

MINISTER FOR INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE(SHRI S.JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) & (b) No, Sir. Saraswati Heritage Project as such was not launched.

(c) & (d) No sanction order in regard to Saraswati Heritage Project was issued. Financial concurrence for the project was obtained on 1.3.2004 at a cost of Rs. 4.98 crores. This amount was to be met from regular budgetary provisions.

In anticipation of the sanction of the project, six sites were taken up for archaeological excavations in 2003-2004, in addition to the three sites which had been taken up earlier. The excavations are in progress.