GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3264
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2004
UNAKOTI AS WORLD HERITAGE
Das Shri Khagen

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Archaeological Survey of India has recommended that Unakoti in Tripura may be declared as world heritage Centre;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) the steps taken to develop and protect Unakoti as also to publicize as a tourist destination;

(d) whether the Government is aware that excavations are required to be carried out at Shibani near Unakoti, at Pilak and Kamalpur in Tripura where significant monuments are likely to be discovered; and

(e) if so, the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Conservation, preservation, maintenance and upkeep of environment of protected monument is a continuous process. A number of tourist friendly measures like approach pathways along the rock cut bas relief and the sculptures, bridges over nalas, staircases and clearance of vegetation had been undertaken. Besides signboards have been erected describing the historical importance of the site and for giving directions at some of the vulnerable points.

(d)&(e) The Shibani Archaeological site near Unakoti, is not centrally protected. The officials of Archaeological Survey of India have inspected the site and reported the findings of Rock Cut Sivalingas dated to Circa 12th Century A.D.

The Archaeological sites at Pilak like Thakurani Tila and Shyamsunder Tila have already been excavated. The site of Kamalapur was also inspected by a team of field officials of Archaeological Survey of India. The exploration has been carried out near Lalcharra under Dhalai District of Tripura. Although some burnt brick structures have been reported, no substantial evidence of ancient habitation is reported. Hence, there is no proposal for further excavation of the site.