

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4276
ANSWERED ON:18.05.2006
PRESERVATION AND EXCAVATION OF SITES IN ORISSA
Deo Shri Bikram Keshari

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

- (a) The funds allocated for preservation and excavation of New Archaeological sites in Orissa, during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) The steps taken to develop the Buddhist Tourism Circuit in Cuttack, Kendrapara and Balasore districts in Orissa?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

- (a) The funds allocated for undertaking excavations of archaeological sites in Orissa during the last three years, and the current year, is given below:

Year Funds Allocated for
Excavations (in Rs.)

2003-04 25.50 lacs
2004-05 11.20 lacs
2005-06 06.53 lacs
2006-07 26.50 lacs
(current year)

- (b) A Master Plan for Orissa to develop the Buddhist Sacred Sites as a Tourist Circuit has been prepared by the Department of Tourism and Culture, Government of Orissa; Bhubaneswar, and amount of Rs. 740.67 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India for the Buddhist sites of Udaigiri, Lalitgiri and Ratnagiri under this Buddhist circuit development programmes.