

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4780
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2010
EXCAVATION IN NALANDA
Kumar Shri Kaushalendra;Ramkishun Shri

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of locations excavated in ancient Nalanda in Bihar during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) the names of the said locations alongwith the brief details of achievements and the discovery of historical items made at those locations;
- (c) the whether the excavations Branch-III of Archaeological Survey of India situated in Patna had visited Nalanda district and selected locations of historical and pre-historical importance for excavation;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard;
- (e) whether the said Excavation Branch has found evidence of existence of any civilization even before Indus Valley Civilization in Nalanda district;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the other steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has conducted excavation at Begampur (2007-2008), Damankhanda (2007-2008) and Ghorakatora (2007-2008 & 2008-2009) in district Nalanda, Bihar.

(b) Brief details of achievement and the discoveries of historical items recovered in Nalanda Distt. Bihar is given at Annexure.

(c)& (d) Yes, Sir. Excavation Branch-III, Patna of ASI selected 6 nos. of locations (sites) of historical and pre-historical importance for excavation in last five years viz. (1) Juaferdih, (2) Ghorakatora, (3) Begampur (4) Damankhandas (5) Jagadishpur and (6) Rukministhan, all in district Nalanda. Among them, first four sites have already been excavated by the ASI.

(e) No such evidence has been noticed and found, so far.

(f) & (g) Do not arise

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4780 FOR 08.12.2010

Brief details of achievement and the discourse of historical items recovered in Nalanda Distt. Bihar:

1. Begampur, Distt. Nalanda Bihar (2007-2008)

During the excavation the most important antiquities were unearthed at the site are terracotta gamesman, beads birds human figurines and animal figurines, terracotta plaque, stopper, armet, sling-balls hop-scotches, rattle handle, iron ring, and nails, terracotta mould or horse, moulds sealing. One of the most important antiquities discovered at the site is a fragment of a sealing with Brahmi script having three lines inscriptions and on its left a running deer have shown.

2. Damankhanda, Distt. Nalanda Bihar (2007-2008)

The excavation revealed remains of Buddhist temple, fragmentary architectural and sculptural remains. Further, the antiquities recovered from excavation are mostly terracotta human figurine animal figurine, wheel ear-lobe, stopper sling ball dabber beads and inscribed sealings, small sculptures of Buddha in Bhumisparsa and Dharmachakra Pravartan pose and Vishnu in Samabhanga pose made of stone were also found Nail and nail parer are among the iron objects bone points and fragments of votive stupas made of stone were also the noteworthy findings.

3. Ghorakatora, Distt. Nalanda Bihar (2007-2008 & 2008-2009)

The excavation on the basis of the ceramic industries, antiquities and other material culture recovered, revealed that the site was occupied continuously from the Chalcolithic Cultures to the Pala Period. The excavation revealed about three hundred antiquities including terracotta; stone metal glass iron bone and shell objects.