

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2205
ANSWERED ON:27.03.2012
EXCAVATIONS IN JHARKHAND
Namdhari Shri Inder Singh

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government /Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has carried out excavations in Itkhori and Balbal region of Jharkhand;
- (b) if so, the details of the discoveries made;
- (c) whether the ASI proposes to establish museums at these sites to house the relics excavated; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HOUSING AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA)

- (a) Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is excavating at the ancient site of Itkhori, District Chatra, Jharkhand and the excavation is continuing. No excavation is carried out at Balbal (Gidhaur Block) region of Jharkhand.
- (b) Nine trenches have been taken for excavation and so far, it has revealed stone and brick structures which seem to be ruins of a low-height stupa. So far, a number of sculptural panels depicting kirtimukha, kalasa, couple, creeper and mythical figures; sculptures of Dhyani Buddha and human head, terracotta hopscotch, beads together with iron implements have been found.
- (c) & (d) There is no proposal at this stage for the construction of Site Museum at the site as the work is in progress.