

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5190
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2012
EXCAVATIONS IN BALLIA REGION
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Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain precious objects dating back to the Mauryan period have been found during an excavation in the Ballia region of Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) If so, the details of the objects found; and
- (c) the details of conclusions drawn by the Archaeological Survey of India regarding the period and civilisation in the area from the excavated objects?

Answer

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

(a)& (b) Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has not conducted archaeological excavation in Ballia region, Uttar Pradesh. However, Department of Ancient Indian History Culture & Archaeology, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi has carried out excavation at Pakkakot, District Ballia, Uttar Pradesh during the field session 2010-2011 and 2011-2012. The Pakkakot excavation have yielded many varieties of antiquities belonging to Mauryan Period which includes beads, pendants of semi precious stones, bone points, coins, metal objects and miscellaneous terracotta objects. The most precious object recovered from pre-Mauryan level is a silver figurine of mother Goddess. The objects of Mauryan period include tiny pendants of parrot and tortoise of crystal and agate respectively; several semi-precious beads of carnelian, agate, quartz, crystal etc; and one copper punch-marked coin etc.

(c) ASI is in agreement with the observation of the excavator on the chronological cultural sequence of the region established through the excavation.