

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2878
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2012
MORTAL REMAINS OF LORD BUDDHA
Singh Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the mortal remains of Lord Buddha was found during an excavation at Vaishali in Bihar;
- (b) if so, whether the State Government has acquired 2.5 acres of land and an additional 25 acres is in the process of acquisition for construction of a museum;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Union Government has sought a detailed project proposal from the State Government before providing funds for the construction of the museum;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the response of the State Government thereon;
- (f) whether the target date for completion of the project set by the Patna High Court has been delayed; and
- (g) if so, the time by which the mortal remains of Lord Buddha are likely to be placed in the museum; as directed by the Patna High Court?

Answer

MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH)

- (a) A reliquary stone casket was recovered during excavations in Vaishali in 1957-58. Ashes mixed with earth, one punch-marked copper coin, two glass beads, one conch and a thin small piece of gold were found in it.
- (b)& (c) According to information received from Government of Bihar, initially State Government acquired 2.5 acres of land subsequently the State Government decided to acquire additional 72 acres of land for construction of a museum and Stupa.
- (d)&(e) A proposal was received in the Ministry of Culture from Government of Bihar on 17th February, 2010 for setting up of New Museum at Vaishali. On scrutiny of the proposal, it was found that Government of Bihar had not submitted prime documents like ownership and possession of land, value of land for setting up of museum, list of collections to be housed in the museum apart from some other mandatory documents like Bond, Authorization letter etc. Government of Bihar was accordingly requested by the Ministry of Culture to provide the requisite documents but the same have not been received till date.
- (f) Government of Bihar has informed that the Hon'ble Patna High Court has directed to complete this project without delay.
- (g) Government of Bihar has also informed that it is serious in developing this museum cum Stupa on a grand scale and necessary steps are being taken in this matter. As soon as the building of the Museum is completed the relics will be placed there.