

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2512
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2013
ANCIENT MONUMENTS OF BUDDHIST ERA
Panda Shri Prabodh

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some ancient monuments belonging to the Buddhist era were unearthed in east and west Midnapur district of West Bengal in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any step to preserve/protect these monuments;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the funds allocated/spent for the purpose by the Government?

Answer

MINISTER OF CULTURE SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH

- (a) An archaeological site namely Sakheesena Mound at Moghalmari, P.S. Dantan, Distt. West Midnapur yielding cultural traits belonging to Buddhism and later period has been unearthed in the district of West Midnapur in the State of West Bengal by the Department of Archaeology, University of Calcutta in the recent past.
- (b) The excavations have revealed the existence of a brick temple with monastery complex decorated with panel of stucco figures on the outer wall. The figures include Janguli, Kubera, Gana figure, Bodhisattva, flying figure, couple, wheel, etc. It also yielded five terracotta votive tablets depicting Buddha as a central figure flanked by Bodhisattvas on both sides and a large number of terracotta lamps, sprinklers, Post-Gupta pottery, etc. have been found. The monastery belongs to 6th to 7th century A.D. and is comparable with Vikramshila, Paharpur, Mainanuti, etc. on stylistic ground.
- (c)to(e) The monuments/site are not declared as of national importance under section 4 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. Hence, question does not arise.