

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3206
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2009
EXCAVATION OF ANCIENT SITES AT NALANDA
Kumar Shri Kaushalendra

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to excavate the ancient heritage of Nalanda University and ten other archaeological sites in Nalanda district of Bihar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a), (b)& (c) There is no immediate proposal of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to excavate the ancient heritage of Nalanda University. However, ASI has permitted the Department of Archaeology, Govt. of Bihar to excavate at Telhara, District Nalanda. Besides ASI has also signed an MoU with Nav Nalanda Mahavihar to, inter-alia, undertake some excavations jointly in the Nalanda-region.

Further, ASI has already conducted excavations in District Nalanda at

- (i) Rajgir in 1999-2000,
- (ii) Chandimau in 2000-2001
- (iii) Juafardih in 2006-2007,
- (iv) Begampur in 2007-08,
- (v) Damankhanda in 2007-08 and
- (vi) Ghorakatora in 2007-08 & 2008-09.