

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3303
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2009
PRESERVATION OF BUDDHIST RELICS
Panda Shri Baijayant;Pradhan Shri Nityananda

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain Buddhist relics were excavated in Orissa;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether these relics have been preserved in certain museums in the State/handed over to some agency/organisation in the country or overseas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has constructed or proposes to construct museums in Orissa for preservation of Buddhist relics; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Two sets of a Buddhist relic caskets, made of Khondalite stone, and designed in the form of votive stupas, were excavated from Lalitagiri District Cuttack, Orissa. Besides, apsidal chaityagriha, votive stupas, Buddhist images were also discovered.
- (c) & (d) These relic caskets have been preserved and kept in the custody of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Bhubaneswar Circle, Bhubneshwar.
- (e) & (f) Yes, Sir. ASI has decided to construct a site-museum at Lalitagiri for the preservation and display of the Buddhist-relics.