

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2813  
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2013  
RELICS OF LORD BUDDHA  
Singh Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad

**Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the famous and sacred begging bowl (Bhiksha Patra) of Lord Buddha has been found in a Museum in Kabul, Afghanistan;
- (b) if so, whether the Indian embassy has sent photograph of the above begging bowl to the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry has sought to know about its origin from the Archaeological Survey of India(ASI);
- (c) whether mention about this begging bowl has been made in an article by the first Director General, ASI Dr. Cunningham and the books published by ASI at that time;
- (d) whether it is also mentioned in the travel accounts of Fa Hien and Huen Tsang;
- (e) whether history and archaeological experts of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi University, Banaras Hindu University and Patna University have also sent information in this regard to ASI;
- (f) whether historical evidence have been found that Mohd. Ghazni had written some other things in Persian language on that begging bowl; (g) whether articles of scholars from Afghanistan, Pakistan and France are also available; and (h) whether the Ministry of External Affairs has also demanded the information regarding its genesis and if so, the details thereof and the time by which the available evidence is likely to be sent to the Ministry of External Affairs?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF CULTURE ( SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH)

- (a) A bowl is presently displayed in the National Museum at Kabul (Afghanistan).
  - (b) The Indian Embassy has sent a photograph of the bowl.
  - (c)to(g) The inscriptions on the bowl have been examined by the Archaeological Survey of India, Epigraphy Branch, Nagpur and found that the inscriptions are ascribable to circa 16th Century A.D. in Nastalique(Persian).
- It is not possible to hold a view purely based on the information provided in several reports and travel accounts unless it is substantiated with factual archaeological evidence.
- (h) The available information with the comments of Archaeological Survey of India has already been sent to Ministry of External Affairs.