

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4137
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2014
BHIKSHAPATRA OF LORD BUDDHA
Singh Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the photograph of Bhikshapatra(begging bowl) of Lord Buddha has been received from the museum of Kabul, Afghanistan;
- (b) if so , the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Archaeological Survey of India has examined the same and sent the historical and archaeological evidence to the authorities concerned in Afghanistan; and
- (d) if so, the action taken/likely to be taken by the Government to bring the said Bhikshapatra back to Vaishali from Afghanistan?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR)

(a) to (d) Government has received a photograph of the bowl from the Embassy of India in Kabul. The bowl is presently displayed in the National Museum in Kabul city. The photograph has been examined by Director (Epigraphy- Arabic, Persian), Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Nagpur. In his preliminary observations of the photograph, Director (Epigraphy- Arabic, Persian) has mentioned that the inscriptions on the outer surface of the bowl indicate that the bowl was connected with some Mosque (may be the Jama Masjid) of the city of Kandahar. He has suggested that the bowl should be physically and geologically examined to get more information about its origin. Government is examining, in consultation with ASI, further steps required, if any, to establish the provenance of the bowl.