

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4821  
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2014  
HISTORICAL MONUMENTS FOUND DURING EXCAVATION  
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**Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has recently discovered the summer palaces of Emperor Shahjehan near Taj and also undertaken some other excavations in Delhi and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal to develop and upgrade those discoveries and to make it available for public view; and
- (c) If so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons there for?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE, CULTURE AND TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) AND MINISTER OF STATE, CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has not recently discovered the summer palaces of Emperor Shahjehan near Taj Mahal, District Agra, (Uttar Pradesh).

The excavation at Purana Qila, New Delhi in last season revealed the cultural sequence from Maurya to Mughal period without any break.

The notable antiquities includes sealing of Maurya period; beads, antimony rod and terracotta Yakshi figures of Sunga period; more than 20 copper coins and few areca-nut shaped terracotta beads of Kushan period; inscribed dabber and sealing of Gupta period with Brahmi legend possibly readable as Brahmavarta; a small sand stone image of Vishnu (Vaikuntha Vishnu) of Rajput period; etc.

Scientific clearance work at Red Fort, Delhi also revealed the evidence of water channel and system of fountains of Mehtab Bagh very recently which was originally built by Mughal Emperor Shahjehan. The British had destroyed the Mehtab bagh during their rule and flattened the area completely.

(b)&(c) The excavated materials of previous excavations carried out by the department are already displayed in Archaeological Museum, Purana Qila, New Delhi for public view.