

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4306
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2015
EXCAVATION IN SEARCH OF SARASWATI RIVER
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Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to start the excavation in search of river Saraswati as a part of the promotion of cultural sites;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government of thereto; and
- (c) the expected expenditure of the proposed project?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) had already conducted excavations under Saraswati Project since 2003 at following sites:

- (i) Adibadri, District-Yamuna Nagar, Haryana
- (ii) Thanesar, District Kurukshetra, Haryana
- (iii) Bhirana, District- Fatehbad, Haryana
- (iv) Hansi, District- Hissar, Haryana
- (v) Baror, District- Ganganagar ,Rajasthan
- (vi) Tarkhanwala Dera, District- Ganganagar, Rajasthan
- (vii) Chak 86, District- Ganganagar,Rajasthan
- (viii) Karanpura, District- Hanumangarh Rajasthan
- (ix) Junikaran, District- Kachchha, Gujarat
- (x) Khirsara, District- Kachchha, Gujarat.

However, several studies including explorations and excavations have been carried out both by the Government and non-governmental organizations along with palaeochannel, represented today by the Ghaggar river in Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat. Some researchers have ascribed this palaeo-channel to the Saraswati river mentioned in ancient Indian literature.

The excavation work at the ancient mounds of Binjore, District Ganganagar, Rajasthan during the field season 2014-1015 is in progress.

(c) An expenditure of Rs. 27.00 lakh has been incurred for excavation at the ancient mounds of Binjore, District Ganganager (Rajasthan) up to March 2015.