

Need to take up issue of restoring Buddha's demolished statue of Bamiyan with the Government of Afghanistan.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR): Sir, in February, 2001, the Taliban demolished Lord Buddha's statue in Afghanistan, the largest of its kind in the world. The Taliban fighters launched the attack on Buddha's statues with rockets and tanks which sent shock waves throughout the world including the entire Buddhist community.

The world famous statues of Bamiyan Buddha were unique measuring about 150 feet high and dating back to 2nd and 5th centuries A.D. I request the Union Government to take up the matter with the Afghanistan Government to restore the Buddhist treasure for the benefit of the mankind. This will help in preserving world cultural, religious and historical heritage.