

**Title:** Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Orissa for maintenance and expansion of museum at Dhenkanal - Laid.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (DHENKANAL): Sir, the Dhenkanal Museum in Orissa is facing a serious financial crunch. The museum has wide range of antiques including sandstone sculpture of dancer Buddha statue, stuffed animals of panthers and Royal Bengal Tigers, elephants, deer, wild buffaloes and the famous *pattachitra* of Raghurajpur. Despite all these unique collections, the museum is very much neglected due to lack of proper maintenance, mainly due to shortage of staff and inadequate allocation of fund.

There is a vast scope for the expansion of the museums and there is a need to set up galleries for Mahima cult, Dhenkanal's industrial products and botanical galleries, which include medicinal plants, costumes and various dance recital instruments.

The State Government of Orissa has financial crunch to bear the day to day maintenance and proposed expansion programme of the museum.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to bear the 100 per cent cost of the Dhenkanal museum along with expenditure required for its expansion.