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Title: Need to protect an ancient Harappan site of Indus Valley civilization in Bhiwani, Haryana and to include the said site in the list of Central as well as State archeological sites.

SHRIMATI SHRUTI CHOUDHRY (BHIWANI-MAHENDRAGARH): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government for taking immediate steps to protect an ancient "Harappan" site of "Indus Valley Civilization" which falls in my Parliamentary Constituency, Bhiwani-Mahendergarh, Haryana.

I would like to state that this site is located at Mitathal in District Bhiwani and is classified as a "mature Harappan" site dating back to around 2600 BC. This site is so unique that it is used as a reference point as "Mithathal Culture" in archaeology. Important artifacts of great relevance consisting of beads, copper and "Indus style pottery" have been recovered from the site. Since the site neither figures in the Central or State archaeological lists, it is grossly neglected and presently being subjected to large-scale destruction by leaving the mounds of the sites for agricultural purposes by the locals, since the land is privately owned. This is leading to irretrievable damage to our invaluable cultural heritage as it is one of the most ancient civilizations of the world. In order to protect this site of having unique national heritage, I earnestly request to take the following measures: -

- a) The site should be included in the archaeological protected list of Central or State, under ASI;
- b) The Government can acquire the site after proper survey;
- c) The site can be showcased as a tourist spot since it is not far away from Delhi and can be visited in a single day (120 km). Replicas of this ancient pottery and artifacts can also be sold to the tourists for generating revenue for the locals; and
- d) Local potters can be engaged for replicating the Harappan pottery to enable them to earn livelihood and simultaneously preserving the ancient art of pottery.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister for Culture to kindly look into the matter and necessary instructions may be issued to the authorities concerned to do the needful in order to protect the above-mentioned ancient "Harappan" site of Indus Valley Civilization in Haryana without any further delay.