

**Need to take steps to appoint Guards and to construct a boundary to protect Choudwar of Cuttack**

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** Hon. Speaker Sir, Choudwar of Cuttack district was at one point of time the citadel of Gajapati Kings for many years. But with the ravages of time, the seat of power shifted to Cuttack and subsequently to Khurda. But the remnants of the old Fort are there, and it is called Baddhi. This Baddhi is significant because it has four laterite pillars signifying four doors, that is, *chau-dwar*. In the middle there is a granite platform, which people say was the seat of an eminent Buddhist Monk. It is an area protected by the ASI, but very little is done to keep that area from encroachment. Stray cows and goats roam around that area and there is no permanent boundary wall of any nature to protect and preserve that area other than a signpost of the Archaeological Survey of India which states the historical significance of that area. I am told it is more than a 10-acre plot of land in the middle of Choudwar Municipality and it needs to be protected.

I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to appoint guards and construct a permanent boundary to protect this distinct site. Thank you, Sir.