

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:298
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2003
PROTECTION OF BUDDHIST ARTEFACTS
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some ancient Buddhist artefacts excavated from Buddhist sites are lying unprotected at different places;
- (b) if so, whether representations have been made to the Government in this regard particularly from some Southern States;
- (c) if so, the nature of such representations received by the Government;
- (d) the steps being taken to preserve such ancient artefacts through interaction with all concerned citizens; and
- (e) by when the Government is likely to announce a policy for such matters?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.
STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 298 FC
22.12.2003 REGARDING PROTECTION OF BUDDHIST ARTEFACTS

(a) No, Sir. In fact, the ancient Buddhist artefacts, excavated from the centrally protected Buddhist sites by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), are kept well protected and the select material is displayed in the site museums for the benefit of the citizens.

(b) to (d) Representations are received for display of the sculptures in the newly constructed building at Ghantasala, Distt. Krishna (A.P.), in the tourist complex at Banawasi Distt. Uttar Kannada (Karnataka), and at Peddavegi in West Godavari District (A.P.) While the first two works may take two year's time, for Peddavegi no time-schedule can be indicated as it needs acquisition of land, construction of a building and organization of galleries.

(e) The Govt. policy is to synthesise the elements of culture, tourism and good civic life at heritage sites.