

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1987
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2000
EXCAVATION WORK
ANIL BASU;GULAM MEHMOOD BANATWALLA

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

- (a) the number of excavation works in progress under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI);
- (b) the nature, purpose and other details of each of these ongoing excavations including details of places, the date on which the work commenced and the date by which it is expected to be completed;
- (c) the details of any find/evidences discovered in each of the excavation and whether they have been documented and evaluated and whether the reports have been published thereon;
- (d) the details of archaeological finds and evidences discovered hitherto in respect of which no evaluation has been made or reports published, giving the dates of such finds / evidences;
- (e) the details of excavations proposed to be undertaken by the ASI during the current and the next few years; and
- (f) the steps taken / being taken to avoid false or fake excavations, finds or evidences ?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM & CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR)

- (a), (b) & (c) The details of Archaeological Survey of India's ongoing excavations are given in the Annexure.
- (d) As per available record, all the excavated finds have been evaluated and documented.
- (e) The details of ongoing excavations may be seen in the Annexure. No decision has been taken in respect of future excavation.
- (f) Does not arise. The Archaeological Survey of India conducts excavations based on scientific principles and according to well established norms.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1987 SLATED FOR 4.8.2000, RESPECT OF PARTS (a), (b) & (c) REGARDING EXCAVATION WORK, BY SHRI ANIL BASU & SHRI G.M.BANATWALLA.

SITewise DETAILS OF ON GOING EXCAVATIONS BEING CONDUCTED BY THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

NAME OF STATE	DATE OF COM-	DATE OF CO-	NATURE, PURPOSE, STATUS	STATUS OF REPORT
DISTRICT AND	MENCEMENT	MPLETION OF	DOCUMENTATION AND	
SITE	OTHER DETAILS			

Assam, Goalpara,	Dec., 1992	On going work	The nature and purpose of the excavation was to ascertain the sequence of culture of a brick temple of early medieval period. The temple was enclosed within an enclosure wall consisting of a sanctum and a porch in front. The squarish sanctum with a platform was discovered without a presiding deity. Some decorative terracotta plaques, found in the course of excavation, were evaluated and documented.	Ongoing excavation. The prescribed brief report submitted.
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Bihar, East Champaran,	January, 1998	On going work	The nature and purpose of excavation was to ascertain the	Ongoing excavation. The prescribed
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Kesariya different phases of construct- brief report
ion of a Buddhist stupa. A five submitted.
terraced circular brick stupa
of late Gupta period possibly
covering an earlier stupa of
Sunga-Kushan period has been
unearthed. Each terrace has
cells, some housing stucco
image of Buddha. The finds have
been evaluated and documented.

Goa, South February, 2000 On going work The excavation at Chandor Ongoing
Goa, Chandor revealed three clear cut phases excavation.
of cultural activity which The prescribed
includes a cruciform like brick brief report
strucutre with pillar bases as submitted.
earliest phase, overlain a brick
temple with a large mandapa and
Garbhagriha. The third phase
reveals a squarish brick chamber
whose relationship with second
phase temple to be established.
Excavation to the east of temple
complex, also unearthed a broad
brick city wall running in north-
south and measuring more than 20
meter in length has successive
repairs in due course of time.
The other find includes coins,
copper nails, gold ear ornament,
tiles and pottery. All the
evidences have been evaluated
and documented.

Guj.,Kachchh, December, 1991 On going work A unique Harappan city (circa Ongoing
Dholavira 3000-1500 B.C.) is being exca- excavation. The
vated for the nine field season prescribed brief
since January, 1990The work has report submitted.
provided the evidence of the rise
and fall of the Harappan civili-
zation, besides revealing an
excellent example of town
planning, monumental as well as
aesthetic architecture, water
harnessing systems, provision
of stadia, stone - dressing
technology, funerary architecture.
Among other relics are large
reservoirs, one having a damaged
flight of 30 steps, and the other
a rock-cut one of extraordinary
significance in the Harappan
context. The finds have been
evaluated and documented.

Haryana,Hissar, November, 1997 On going work This is a Harappan site. The Ongoing
Rakhigarhi excavation has yielded evidence excavation. The
of public building and drainage, prescribed brief
the evidence of activities of report submitted.
specialized crafts and long
distance trade. Artifacts
recovered from the site include
terracotta figurines; pieces of
ornaments of gold, silver,
copper, shell, semi - precious
stones, steatite, faience, clay,
bone, etc., stone weights, seals
and sealings. In addition lithic
and ceramic assemblages has also
been found. A Harappan cemetery
has also been identified. The
finds have been evaluated and
documented.

J & K, Jammu, January, 2000 On going work Earlier the site had reported Ongoing
Amabaran Akhnoor type of terracotta excavation. The
figurines belonging to early prescribed brief

historical period. The site was report submitted.
taken up for excavation to
ascertain the sequence of
culture and study the Akhnoor
type of terracotta figurines in
a stratified context. The
artifacts and pottery reported
in the course of excavation
have been evaluated and documented.

Karnataka, January, 1978 On going work The site has been identified Ongoing
Bellary, Hampi as Vijayanagar, the capital excavation. The
city of the Vijayanagar prescribed brief
kingdom which flourished from report submitted.
14th to the 16th century AD.
Excavation has revealed ruins
of Vijayanagar palace complex,
water harvesting system besides
antiquities and numismatic data.
The finds have been evaluated
documented.

Karnataka, March, 1995 On going work Ruins of stupa of the Ongoing
Gulbarga, Satavahana period datable to excavation. The
Kanganhalli circa 2nd century BC to 2nd prescribed brief
3rd century AD. Limestone report submitted.
sculptures of Buddha, Buddhist
deities, carved panels
depicting events from the life
of Buddha. The finds have been
evaluated and documented.

Karnataka, December, 1999 On going work A number of lateritic struct- Ongoing
North Kanara, ures, water cistern for storing excavation. The
Mirjan Fort water, and underground chambers prescribed brief
plastered with lime for storing report submitted.
ammunition have been brought to
light. Important finds like
Portuguese gold coin minted at
Goa in A.D. 1652; and canon balls
and Chinese stamped porcelain
with paintings have been
evaluated and documented.

Karnataka, November, 1998 On going work The excavation was undertaken Ongoing
Srirangapatna, with a view to examine the excavation. The
Lal Mahal structural activities of the prescribed brief
Lal Mahal / Ancient Palace a report submitted.
part of the debris of the
palace cleared previously. A
flight of steps with balustrade
was found to the western side
of the mound leading to platform
to the east. A series of rooms
were exposed to the north and
south of the platform. A
pillared hall was located to
the east of audience hall. The
finds have been evaluated and
documented.

Kerala, December, 1997 On going work There are residue of military Ongoing
Kasargode, and paramilitary settlements excavation. The
Bekal Fort inside the fort and the exca- prescribed brief
vation revealed many residen- report submitted.
tial houses planned in grid
pattern along the street. A
mint of Tipu Sultan was enco-
untered along with a series of
furnace together with 150
copper ingots mixed with
charcoal. The antiquities
evaluated and documented were
100 coins, coin-die, pieces of
gold ear-rings etc. - all

attributed to Tipu Sultan's
Period.

Madhya Pradesh, January, 1999 On going work The excavation revealed four Ongoing excavation.
West Nimar fold cultural sequence from The prescribed

(Khargaon), 4.5 m. thick deposit, ranging brief report
Chichali from the Chalcolithic to Early submitted.
Historical period viz. Ahar,
Malwa, Jorwe and early histo-
rical period. Evidences of
house plans of different
nature are found in almost
all stages together with
terracotta, copper, stone,
bone, ivory and iron objects.
The finds have been evaluated
and documented.

Madhya Pradesh, March, 1999 On going work The excavation revealed the Ongoing
Chattarpur, ruins of a large temple complex excavation. The
Bijamandal with sculptures and architect- prescribed brief
Mound, Khajuraho ural members belonging to report submitted.
Chandela period. Among the
important sculptures reference
may be made of Saraswati, Jain
tirthankaras, besides unfinished
sculptures. The finds have been
evaluated and documented.

Madhya Pradesh, December, 1999 On going work At Barhat (Deorkothar), Stupa Ongoing
Rewa, Barhat No.1 & 2 were subjected to excavation. The

(Deorkothar) excavation. Both the stupas, prescribed brief
circular on plan embellished report submitted.
with toranas, were covered by
brick bats upto medhi level.
The ruins may safely be dated
to Maurya - Sunga period as the
excavation has revealed six
lined inscription in Mauryan
Brahmi and a few donatory
inscriptions in Sunga Brahmi
characters. The finds have been
evaluated and documented.

Orissa, Jajpur, December, 1997 On going work The excavation has revealed Ongoing
Udaigiri brick built double storied excavation. The
monastery consisting monastic prescribed brief
cells, varandah, courtyard, report submitted.
sanctum sanctorum with an
image of Buddha. Important
finds reported were sculptures
of Buddhist divinities,
architectural fragments,
fragmentary stone inscriptions,
votive stupas, terracotta seals
and sealings. Two bronze images
of Buddha and Bodhisattava are
also recovered. The site is
datable to circa 9th century
A.D. to 10th century A.D. The
antiquities have been evaluated
and documented.

Punjab, Mansa, January, 2000 On going work The excavation work proposed Ongoing
Dhalewan to study the gradual evaluat- excavation. The
ion from Pre Harappan to prescribed brief
Harappan and to study the report submitted.
settlement pattern. The finds
have been evaluated and
documented.

Rajasthan, January, 2000 On going work The excavation was carried Ongoing
Bhilwara, Ojena out to ascertain the sequence excavation. The
of culture and its relation prescribed brief
with other contemporary chal- report submitted.
colithic sites. Data from
excavation has helped in det-
ermining the extension of
Jahar culture as well as the
interaction the site had with
Deccan Chalcolithic cultural.
About 800 antiquities were
documented and evaluated.

Tamil Nadu, December, 1997 On going work The excavation brought to Ongoing
Kanchipuram, light structural remains in excavation. The
Shore Temple the form of floors, parellel prescribed brief
Complex brick walls and platform of report submitted.
early medieval period. Further
excavation revealed two brick
walls built on stone foundation
running almost parellel in north
-south orientation and a square
brick chamber. The finds have
been evaluated and documented.

U. P., Agra February, 1999 On going work The excavations at Bir- Ongoing
Fatehpur Sikri Chhabili-ka-Tila located in excavation. The
Sikri village revealed 34 prescribed brief
Jain sculptures comprising report submitted.
images of Rishabhadev, Kunt-
unath and Sambhabji together
with images of Saraswati and
Ambika belonging to 10th 11th
century AD. The antiquities
have been evaluated and documented.

U.P., Sravasti, February, 2000 On going work The excavation at Buddhist Ongoing
Orajhar site laid were three distinct excavation. The
cultures viz. Kushan, Gupta prescribed brief
and Medieval. Period-I report submitted.
revealed a monastic complex
of Kushan period. Period-II
revealed a Gupta temple. In
Period - IIIA a square
platform like structure and
in Period - III B a star
shaped platform of a temple
were exposed. All structures,
antiquities have been properly
documented and evaluated.

W.B., Cooch March, 1999 On going work Excavations at Rajpat mound Ongoing
Behar, Rajpat has revealed the evidences excavation. The
at Khalsa of three successive cultural prescribed brief
periods, viz. Pala period, report submitted.
Khen period and the Koch per-
iod with atleast seven struc-
tural phases. The excavation
has exposed brick fortifica-
tion of Pala period. Besides
structural remains of diff-
erent periods, number of ant-
iquities evaluated and docum-
ented are iron hoes, arrow
heads, sickle, nails, clamps,
chisels etc., copper nails,
one Sultanate coin, heavy
ribbed terracotta balls and
number of stone sculptural
fragments.

West Bengal, April, 2000 On going work The objectives were to reveal Ongoing
North 24 cultural sequence of the site, excavation. The

parganas, to establish the relationship prescribed brief
Chandraketugarh between rampart and habitat- report submitted.
ional area and phases of construction. Important antiquities reported were bone points, dyes, terracotta and stone objects. The discovery of terracotta - mithuna plaque deserves special mention. Antiquities have been evaluated and documented.