

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3181
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2004
DISCOVERY OF MUMMIES
Mishra Dr. Rajesh Kumar

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the places in the country where mummies have been found and their condition;
- (b) whether a five hundred years old mummy has been found in a Buddhist monastery in Spiti area, Himachal Pradesh;
- (c) the arrangements made for their protection and maintenance; and
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for the protection of such cultured heritages and for development of such places as tourist spot?

Answer

MINISTER FOR INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRIS. JAIPAL REDDY)

- (a) No mummy has so far been found by the Archaeological Survey of India in the country.
- (b) A buried body, dried in arid climate, was a chance -find near the village of Giu, District Lahul and Spiti, Himachal Pradesh. There is no scientific date available to estimate the period of the body under reference.
- (c) The body at present is kept in a room of the village temple being maintained by the villagers.
- (d) The village is located in the border area with restricted entry. Common people and tourists are not allowed to visit the area. Archaeological Survey of India has no proposal to protect this site at this stage.