

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3064
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2006
EXCAVATION IN UTTARANCHAL
Khanduri AVSM,Maj.Gen.(Retd.) Bhuwan Chandra

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

- (a) whether permission has been accorded to excavation works at some places in Uttaranchal by the Archaeological Survey of India;
- (b) if so, the purpose behind such excavation works related to ancient heritages;
- (c) whether some important articles have been lost during excavations in ancient temples at Chandpur Garhi in Chamoli District; and
- (d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) & (b) No, Sir.

However, the Dehradun Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India has carried out scientific clearances at Chandpur Fort, District Chamoli, and Lakhamandal, District Dehradun, both centrally protected monuments in Uttaranchal. These were undertaken as a part of conservation and for exposing the plan and other details of the ancient monuments.

(c) & (d) No artifact was lost during the scientific clearances. However, a loose wooden image worshiped by locals as goddess Kali, stylistically datable to around late medieval period (circa 18th -19th century AD), was noticed missing from a chamber located in the premises of Chandpur Fort, Chamoli, Uttaranchal. The Archaeological Survey of India has inspected the site and brought the theft into the notice of police for investigation.