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Title: Need for protection of Kapilash Shivapitha in Dhenkanal district of Orissa by Archaeological Survey of India-Laid.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (DHENKANAL) : I draw the attention of the Government of India to the alarming reports which are emanating regarding the destruction of forest cover and consequent drying up of the only perennial natural spring and water source of the famous and ancient thirteen century Shivapitha, the abode of Lord Chandrasheker on the 1500 ft. high Kapilash hill in Dhenkanal district, Orissa. Thousands of devotees, pilgrims and tourists visit Kapilash from all over India during Shravan Purnima and lakhs of people throng the temple during Mahashivaratri. In this proposed sanctuary which also contains the Kapilash Zoo and Crocodile Breeding Centre, the second of its kind in Orissa and funded by the Zoo Authority of India, the Kapilash hill area also contains a Science Centre set up by the National Council of Science Museum.

The Central Government has time and again been requested to take over the ancient Kapilash Temple and its environs under the Protection of Ancient Monument and Archeological Site and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules 1959 by the Archaeology Survey of India.

In the absence of any protection the site of Kapilash Temple is being encroached and unauthorised buildings are being constructed in violation of Forest Conservation Act 1980 and the beautiful natural stream, the only water source for the temple, pilgrims, tourists and cultural persons and the wild life as well as domestic life has totally dried up which will have serious consequences. There is an urgent requirement for the protection, preservation and conservation by the Archeological Survey of India as well as protecting and conserving the encroachment as well as the course of water. I urge upon the Government to take over this site of Kapilash Shivapith forth with.