

an>

Title: Need to set up Ashoka Edicts Park in village Topra Kalan in Yamuna Nagar district, Haryana.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): I would like to bring to the kind notice of Hon'ble Tourism Minister that there was Ashoka Pillars Edict at Topra Kalan Village in Yamuna Nagar District in Haryana. During the reign of Emperor Ashoka in 3rd century BCE this village was a flourishing trade centre and a prominent junction of major routes connecting the country North to South (Taxila to Nalanda) and East to West (Sindh to Kalsi-Badrinath). During later half of his rule, Emperor Ashoka erected his most significant Pillar Edict at Topra as part of his campaign for spreading Dharma as a philosophy of his rule, which subsequently ushered in the Golden period of the history of Bharat.

But alas, by 14th century A.D. this pillar was uprooted by the then ruler of Delhi, Feroz Shah Tughlaq who ferried to his capital Delhi and got it erected at its present day location at Feroz Shah Kotla.

I demand that Ashoka Edicts Park may kindly be established in village Topra Kalan in district Yamuna Nagar. This project has huge tourism potential. The vision for this project is to propagate the message of peace, prosperity and universal ethical values embodied in culture of Bharat since ancient times.