GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 823
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2021

EXCAVATIONS AT SANAULI IN UTTAR PRADESH

823. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the excavations conducted at Sanauli in Uttar Pradesh initially in 2005-06 and subsequently during 2017-18 and 2019 have led to path-breaking discoveries in Indian archaeology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reason for stalling the excavations in continuation of 2018-19 even though other significant aspects of the site and the culture it represents still remain to be archaeologically established; and

(d) whether excavations conducted earlier have established co-relationship between the burials found along with grave goods, including chariots, headgear, etc. and human settlement at Sanauli and, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The details are at Annexure.

(c) & (d) ASI takes up research oriented excavation projects. The excavations, hitherto, conducted at the site revealed funerary evidences which established it as a necropolis dated to 2nd millennium BCE.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY PART (a) & (b) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 823 FOR 27.7.2021

The archaeological site at Sanauli (notified as Sadikpur Sinauli), district Baghpat (Uttar Pradesh) was excavated by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) during season of 2004-05 and 2005-06. The excavations yielded a prominent cemetery and revealed evidence of 116 burials. Besides, the significance of the site lies in the evidence suggesting animal sacrifice in some middle and upper level burials, and recovery of copper antennae swords which are generally associated with the pre-Iron age OCP/Copper hoards culture of Ganga-Yamauna Doab.

In the field season 2017-18 and 2018-19, ASI again conducted excavation some 120m away from earlier excavated area. A total ten number of burial remains unearthed include five are coffin burials, three secondary burial including one twin burial, two symbolic and one dog burials. The other findings include chariots, copper antenna swords, daggers, copper miniature pot, shield, comb, mirror, hundreds of small cylindrical paste beads, steatite beads and triangle, round and rectangular inlays, semiprecious and gold beads, etc. The site has been dated to 2000 to 1800 BCE.

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