

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 815
ANSWERED ON 27.07.2023

EXCAVATION OF SITES IN ODISHA

815. SMT. SULATA DEO
SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:-

- (a) the number of excavations conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in Odisha in the last five years, district-wise;
- (b) the details of the findings from the aforementioned excavations at these sites, if available;
- (c) whether Government plans to conduct further excavations in the State in the coming year; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has conducted following excavations in Odisha in the last five years:

- 1) Asurgarh, District Kalahandi, Odisha (2018-19)
- 2) Langudi hill, District Jajpur, Odisha (2019-20 and 2020-21)
- 3) Adjacent area of Sari Deul, Bhubaneswar (2021-22)
- 4) Naara Huda, Tirimal, District Khordha, Odisha (2021-22 and 2022-23)
- 5) Parabhadi hillock, District Jajpur, Odisha (2022-23)

(b) The details of findings from the aforementioned excavations at these sites are attached as **Annexure I**.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. Barabati Fort, Cuttack, is the site approved by ASI for further excavation in Odisha.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 815 FOR 27.07.2023

The details of findings from the excavations conducted in Odisha during the last five years

1. Excavation at Asurgarh Fort, District Kalahandi, Odisha (2018-19):

A total number of 417 antiquities include Beads, circular discs, fragmented terracotta animal figurines, sling balls, Bangle fragments terracotta *hukka*, disc, wheel, crucible, gamesman, ear-stud, finger ring, toe ring, pendants, arrowhead, Iron objects such as harpoon, spearhead, knife, chisel, cog wheel, nails and clamps etc.; pounder, saddle-quern, dabber, punch-marked coins and tokens, a very tiny figure of lion made of copper and a gold chain, terracotta sealing/votive tablet, stone tools like Celt, adze, fakes, blade-cum scrapper, a scrapper-cum-point of bone have been retrieved from the archaeological excavation. Remains of brick and mud structures, a road made up of stone pebbles, a terracotta ring well are also noticed.

2. Excavation at Langudi Hill, District Jajpur, Odisha (2019-20 and 2020-21):

Remains of a stupa, group of rock-cut stupas, rock-cut images of Buddhist pantheon and a partially exposed monastery, terracotta objects including votive stupas, images of Buddha, Bodhisattvas, Tara, railings and parasol, ear studs, beads and bangles bone have been retrieved from the archaeological excavation.

A total number of fifty antiquities including terracotta sling ball, pendant, pottery hopscotch, dabber, chisel, image of Ganesha, stone medallion, seal with Brahmi characters and symbols, fragment of an ivory nozzle with fragmentary inscription on it, a terracotta wheel and an iron arrow-head are noteworthy.

3. Excavation at Adjacent area of Sari Deul, Bhubaneswar, Odisha (2021-22)

During the excavation, bases and lower portions of 6 nos. of earlier temples, one dilapidated Mahishamardini temple, sculptures of deities and animals, daily use objects like mullers and potsherds have been recovered.

4. Ongoing excavation at Naara Huda, Tirimal, District Khurda, Odisha (2021-22):

A total number of 105 antiquities, comprises mostly sling balls, hopscotch, terracotta animal figurines, bone points, Celts (stone), copper points and an iron Celt, beads of terracotta and other semiprecious stones etc., Circular mud platforms and evidences of temporary hearths have been retrieved from excavation.

5. Excavation at Parabhadi, Darpana District-Jajpur, Odisha

The excavation work at site revealed a stone build ashlar masonry stupa. A total number of 14 antiquities made out of stone and terracotta have been retrieved from the excavation i.e disc, sculpture, pestle, fragment of chhatravali of stone, slingball and terracotta plaque.
