

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 521
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2026

CONSERVATION OF MOIDAM NO.2

521 SHRI JOGEN MOHAN:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the present status of conservation of Moidam No. 2 of Charaideo, Assam excavated by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) during 2000-2003;
- (b) if so, the details of the conservation measures undertaken, so far; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to take any further steps for its preservation and maintenance and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) Moidam No. 2 of Charaideo, Assam is a centrally protected monument under to Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). ASI takes up conservation work at
- (c) Moidam No. 2 of Charaideo time to time as per need and availability of resources and conservation of monument is a regular process. Moidam No. 2 of Charaideo is in good state of preservation and “Moidams – the Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty” was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List during the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee, held in New Delhi in 2024. The details of conservation works carried out at Moidam No. 2 of Charaideo are attached as Annexure I.

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA
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**Conservation Work at Moidam No.2, Group of Moidams, Charaideo After
Excavation**

- Various conservation measures had been undertaken by ASI, Guwahati Circle at the excavated Moidam No. 2 to ensure its structural stability, improve drainage, and preserve its original fabric.
- A concealed drainage system with inspection chambers had been provided to facilitate periodic cleaning and maintenance of the drainage pipes, thereby ensuring efficient disposal of rainwater.
- A properly designed pathway leading to the inner chamber of the Moidam had been constructed using specially sized bricks to provide safe access while maintaining the historical character of the monument.
- The floor of the Moidam had been consolidated with specially sized bricks laid in traditional lime-surkhi mortar, ensuring compatibility with the original construction materials and techniques.
- Lime-surkhi pointing had been carried out on the inner chamber as well as on the entrance arch of the Moidam's vault to strengthen the masonry joints and prevent further deterioration.
- The opening on the roof of the Moidam had been sealed to prevent the ingress of rainwater and protect the interior of the structure from moisture-related damage.
- Turfing had also been carried out on the slopes of the exposed portion of the Moidam to minimize soil erosion and stabilize the earthen surface against the effects of rainfall.
- Despite these conservation measures, the exposed excavated portion of Moidam No. 2 continued to remain vulnerable to weathering and erosion. Therefore, during the financial year 2022–23, it was decided to conserve the excavated Moidam by constructing a vaulted passage leading to the original inner chamber and subsequently filling the excavated portion with suitable earth to restore the Moidam to its original profile.
- The proposed vaulted passage would ensure permanent and safe access to the original burial chamber while allowing the excavated portion to be scientifically reburied and protected from further environmental deterioration.
- The work is presently in progress. As part of the ongoing conservation programme, the octagonal brick walls of Moidam No. 2 have been scientifically cleared of accumulated debris and restored to their original profile.
- The inner walls of the original vault have also been plastered with traditional lime mortar using compatible materials and techniques in accordance with established conservation principles.