

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2299
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.01.2018**

EXCAVATION AT ASHOKAN PILLAR

2299. DR. SANJAY JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any special action plan for excavation at Ashokan Pillar, Lauriya; Buddhist Stupa, Kesaria and Virar Raman Temple Kesaria; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated for the purpose and the time frame fixed to start the said work?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CULTURE & MINISTER OF STATE
FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE.**

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) Excavations have been carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India at Lauriya & Nandangarh, Lauriya Areraj and Kesaria Stupa from time to time. Rs. 15.00 lakh has been allotted for scientific clearance and preservation of Kesaria stupa during 2017-18.
- (b) Development work, such as construction of boundary wall and toilet block at Kesaria is being undertaken. The estimated cost for construction of boundary wall and toilet block is about 1.65 crores and Rs. 55 lakh respectively. The Excavation Branch-III, Patna has been directed to take up further excavations at Kesaria stupa to expose the remaining portion. The said monuments are in good state of preservation. Virar Raman Temple at Kesaria is not a protected monument of ASI.