

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.370
ANSWERED ON 05.02.2018**

**INCLUSION OF BUDDHIST CIRCUIT OF ODISHA UNDER SWADESH DARSHAN
SCHEME**

**370. SHRIMATI PRATYUSHA RAJESHWARI SINGH:
SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA:**

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that Odisha has huge Buddhist potential and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether Archaeological Survey of India in its exploration and excavation has found more than two hundred sites across the State and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) whether the Government proposes to include the Dhauli-Ratnagiri-Lalitgiri-Udayagiri-Langudi Buddhist Circuit of Odisha under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI K.J. ALPHONS)

(a) to (c): Buddhist Circuit has been identified as one of the fifteen thematic circuits for development under Swadesh Darshan Scheme- Integrated Development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits. All places associated with the Buddhist heritage in the country including Dhauli-Ratnagiri-Lalitgiri-Udayagiri-Langudi in Odisha are covered under the Buddhist Circuit.

The details of sites explored/excavated in Odisha by Archaeological Survey of India are as under:

Excavation:

Year	Name of Site
1996-97	Excavation at Barabati Fort, Cuttack
1998-99	Excavation at Ratnagiri Buddhist Site, Ratnagiri, Jajpur
2001-02	Excavation at Udayagiri, Jajpur and Haripurgarh, Mayurbhanj
2015-16	Excavations at Sua Barei in district Puri

Exploration: In the recent exploration conducted in Odisha by Excavation Branch of Archaeological Survey of India in all 203 villages have been explored out of which 30 have yielded relics having archaeological remains, pottery, etc.
