

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2101
ANSWERED ON 08.03.2021

DEVELOPMENT OF FIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

2101. SHRI MAHESH SAHOO:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the share of the budgetary allocation of Rs 2500 crore to the sector nationally, in the budget of 2020-21;
- (b) whether the Government announced development of five archaeological sites across the country to promote tourism along with the criteria of selection of the sites;
- (c) whether any of the sites in Odisha qualify for the scheme; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to include the archaeological sites from Odisha like Sun Temple at Konark, Jagannath Temple in Puri and the Buddhist Peace Pagoda in Dhauri in such a scheme, considering their importance and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CULTURE & TOURISM
(PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

- (a) Out of total Ministry's Budget allocation of Rs.3149.86 Crore at BE 2020-21 , Rs. 1246.75 Crore are allocated to ASI for meeting the salary expenses, developmental work , conservation and preservation work of ASI sites and Museum etc.Out of ASI's Budgetary allocation in year 2020-21 , Rs. 20.00 crore under revenue sub head 'Archaeological Museum - Minor works', Rs. 35.00 crore under the Capital head (Major Works) and Rs. 5.10 Crore were provisioned under revenue subhead 'Archaeological Exploration and Excavation - other charges'. Any development work of 5 sites viz., Rakhigarhi, Hastinapur, Shivsagar, Dholavira and Adichanallur, as iconic sites with on-site Museums may be made through these sub heads, as applicable.
- (b) Yes, Government of India , in the Budget of 2020, announced development of five (05) nos. of Iconic sites which include – 1. Hastinapur (Uttar Pradesh), 2. Rakhigarhi (Haryana), 3. Sibsagar (Assam), 4. Dholavira (Gujrat) and 5. Adichanallur (Tamil Nadu). The sites were selected because of their Outstanding Archaeological/ Historical Value. Each of the sites represents unique aspects of Indian history and cultural development. The sites have invaluable archaeological deposits that can be showcased for public viewing.
- (c)&(d) At present only five (05) sites are selected.