

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO-163
ANSWERED ON 9.3.2021

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS IN TAMIL NADU

163. SHRI N.R. ELANGO:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of archaeological excavations conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in Tamil Nadu in last five years;
- (b) when was the excavation for world renowned Keeladi in Tamil Nadu started and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the excavated site of Keeladi was protected by Government, if not, when will it be protected by ASI; and
- (d) the details of the proposed, identified archaeological sites in the State of Tamil Nadu?

ANSWER

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

(a) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

to

(d)

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY PART (a) TO (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA
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- (a) During the last five years, ASI carried out excavation at two (2) archaeological sites namely Keeladi, district Sivganga (2015-17) and Kodumanal, district Erode (2017-18).
- (b) ASI conducted excavations at Keeladi for three field seasons (2014-15 to 2016-17) and brought to light the following three cultural periods:

Iron Age (pre 300 BCE)

Early Historic Period (300 BCE– 300 CE)

Post Early Historic Period (Post 300 CE)

The artefacts findings consists of beads of glass, terracotta, semiprecious stones, like carnelian, quartz; ivory ornaments and dice, terracotta figurines, dice, spindle whorls, disc, gamesmen and terracotta seal, various forms of copper and iron objects, bone points, shell bangles, legged quern, etc. The ceramic assemblage includes black and red ware, russet coated ware, white painted black and red ware, red slipped ware, etc.

- (c) There is no proposal received to protect the site at present.
- (d) The details are at Annexure.

Annexure

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY PART (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO-163 FOR 9.3.2021

LIST OF PROTECTED SITE BY ASI IN THE STATE OF TAMILNADU

UNDER CHENNAI CIRCLE of ASI (TOTAL NOs 124)

DISTRICT: CHENGALPATTU

Sl. No.	Name Of the Site	Locality	Taluk
1.	Megalithic cists and cairns in S. No. 22	Agaram	Chengalpattu
2.	Megalithic cists and cairns in S. No. 111&116	Agaram	Chengalpattu
3.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Alattur	Chengalpattu
4.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Amur	Chengalpattu
5.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Anur	Tirukalikundram
6.	Megalithic cists and cairns in group	Araiypakkam (Hamlet of Mettupalayam)	Madurantakam
7.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Atcharavakkam	Chengalpattu
8.	Megalithic cairns and cists with stone circles	Ayyanjeri	Chengalpattu
9.	Megalithic cairns and cists	Edakunram	Chengalpattu
10.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Gudalur	Madurantakam
11.	Megalithic cairns and cists with stone circles	Guduvancheri	Chengalpattu
12.	Cromlechs	Kadamalaiputhur	Madurantakam
13.	Cairns in the Forest Reserve at the foot of the Perumbair hills	Kadamalaiputhur	Madurantakam
14.	Group of Cairns	Kadapperi	Tambaram
15.	Megalithic Cists and cairns	Kalanipakkam	Madurantakam
16.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Kalathur	Chengalpattu
17.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Kalvay	Chengalpattu
18.	Cists and cairns	Kannakapattu	Chengalpattu
19.	Megalithic cists and cairns with Bounding stone circles	Kandalur	Chengalpattu
20.	Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles	Kattuputhur	Madurantakam
21.	Megalithic cairns and cists with stone circles	Kilambakkam	Chengalpattu
22.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Kottamedu	Chengalpattu
23.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Kumili	Chengalpattu
24.	Megalithic cairns and cists with bounding stone circles	Kunnavakkam	Chengalpattu
25.	Megalithic cairns and cists with stone circles	Kuruvanmedu	Chengalpattu
26.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Madayattur	Chengalpattu
27.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Mailai	Chengalpattu
28.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Malaivaiyavur	Madurantakam
29.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Mampattu	Madurantakam

30.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Manamai	Tirukalikundram
31.	Large groups megalithic cists and cairns	Melkottaiyur	Chengalpattu
32.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Moosivakkam	Madurantakam
33.	Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles	Naduvakkarai	Tirukalikundram
34.	Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles	Nandivaram	Chengalpattu
35.	A Group of cairns	Nanmangalam	Tambaram
36.	Megalithic cists and cairns with bounding stone circles	Nattam	Chengalpattu
37.	Megalithic cairns and cists	Nedungundram	Chengalpattu
38.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Nellikuppam	Chengalpattu
39.	Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles	Olalur	Chengalpattu
40.	Megalithic cairns and cists	Ottivakkam	Chengalpattu
41.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Ottiyambakkam	Tambaram
42.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Padur	Chengalpattu
43.	Megalithic cairns and cists showing clear structural Postures	Pallavaram	Tambaram
44.	Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles	Palliagaram	Madurantakam
45.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Paranur	Chengalpattu
46.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Perumbakkam	Tambaram
47.	Megalithic cists with stone circles circumscribed	Perungalattur	Tambaram
48.	Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles	Ponmar	Chengalpattu
49.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Porundavakkam	Chengalpattu
50.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Pudupakkam	Chengalpattu
51.	Megalithic cists and cairns bounded with stone circles	Pulipakkam	Chengalpattu
52.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Pundi	Chengalpattu
53.	Megalithic cists circumscribed by stone circles	Rajakulipettai	Chengalpattu
54.	Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles	Rayalpattu	Chengalpattu
55.	Megalithic cairns and cists	Sanur	Madurantakam
56.	Megalithic cists and cairns in virgin state	Sastirampakkam	Chengalpattu
57.	Megalithic cairns and cists	Sembakkam	Chengalpattu
58.	Megalithic cairns and cists	Sembakkam	Tambaram
59.	Group of Cairns	Senkunram	Chengalpattu
60.	Megalithic cists and cairns intact with stone circles	Settipuniyam	Chengalpattu
61.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Sirudavur	Chengalpattu
62.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Sirukunram	Chengalpattu
63.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Sittalapakkam	Tambaram
64.	Urn Burial and Megalithic Site	St. Thomas Mount	Tambaram
65.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Thandalam	Madurantakam
66.	Group of cairns	Tiruneermalai	Tambaram
67.	Megalithic cist	Tiruneermalai	Tambaram

68.	Vast area of megalithic cists and cairns covering the entire hill with the temple of Kailasanatha	Tiruporur	Chengalpattu
69.	Sarcophagi and urns spread over a wide area; traces of Megalithic cists and circles	Tirusulam	Tambaram
70.	Megalithic graveyard	Tiruvadisulam	Chengalpattu
71.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Unamanjeri	Chengalpattu
72.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Vaiyavur	Madurantakam
73.	Megalithic cairns and cists with stone circles	Vallanjeri	Chengalpattu
74.	Megalithic cist	Vandalur	Chengalpattu
75.	Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles	Vedanarayanapuram	Chengalpattu
76.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Vembedu	Chengalpattu
77.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Vengur	Chengalpattu
78.	Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles	Venkitapuram	Chengalpattu
79.	Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles	Venpakkam	Chengalpattu
80.	Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles	Venpakkam	Chengalpattu
81.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Virapuram	Chengalpattu

DISTRICT: KANCHIPURAM

Sl. No.	Name Of the Site	Locality	Taluk
82.	Megalithic cists and cairns with bounding stone circles	Echchur	Sriperumbudur
83.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Elutchur	Sriperumbudur
84.	Megalithic cairns and cist	Erumaiyur	Sriperumbudur
85.	Megalithic cists and cairns with bounding stone circles	Gunduperumbedu	Sriperumbudur
86.	Megalithic cairns and cists	Karanithangal, Perinjambakkam, Kavalkalani	Sriperumbudur
87.	Megalithic cist and cairns with stone circles on the hill	Kunnattur	Sriperumbudur
88.	Megalithic cists and cairns with bounding stone circles	Maganiyam	Sriperumbudur
89.	Megalithic cists & cairns with Bounding stone circles	Malaipattu	Sriperumbudur
90.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Nandambakkam	Sriperumbudur
91.	Megalithic cairns and cists	Palayasivaram	Kanchipuram
92.	Megalithic cist and cairns	Perunagar	Uttiramerur
93.	Megalithic cists and cairns	Settupattu	Kanchipuram
94.	Megalithic cairns with stone circles and sarcophagi	Sikkarayapuram	Sriperumbudur
95.	Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles in excellent preservation	Sirukalattur	Sriperumbudur
96.	Megalithic cairns and cists	Tattanur	Sriperumbudur
97.	Dolmen intact	Uttiramerur	Uttiramerur

98.	Megalithic cairns and cists	Vadakkupattu	Sriperumbudur
99.	Megalithic cist cairns with bounding stone circles	Vadamangalam	Sriperumbudur
100.	Megalithic cairns and cists	Venpakkam	Kanchipuram

DISTRICT : TIRUVALLUR

Sl. No.	Name Of the Site	Locality	Taluk
101	Urn Burials	Amirthamangalam	Gummidipundi
102	Virgin group containing many barrows excellently preserved	Attanthangal	Ponneri
103	Megalithic cists	Chedalpakkam	Madurantakam
104	Megalithic cairns and Barrows	Neyveli	Tiruvallur
105	Urn Burials	Palavakkam	Uttukkottai
106	Megalithic cists and cairns	Pammadukulam	Ambattur
107	Megalithic cists and cairns with Bounding stone circles	Panchali (Agarambedu Hamlet)	Gummidipundi
108	Megalithic cists and cairns	Pondavakkam	Ponneri
109	Megalithic cists and cairns	Pottur	Ambattur
110	Prehistoric settlement site coeval with Megalithic period	Pulal	Ambattur
111	Cairns site	Sengarai	Uttukkottai
112	Megalithic cairns with Bounding stone circles	Siruvadu	Gummidipundi
113	Megalithic cists and cairns	Tadipadi	Gummidipundi
114	Megalithic cairns Bounding with stone circles	Vanamalli	Gummidipundi

DISTRICT: TIRUVANNAMALAI

Sl. No.	Name Of the Site	Locality	Taluk
115	Site containing megalithic burials including the monolithic anthropomorphic figure erected at the site	Mottur	Chengam
116	Megalithic cists and cairns	Nedungal	Cheyyar
117	Megalithic cists	Tellur	Vandavasi
118	Megalithic cists and cairns	Tetturai	Cheyyar
119	Megalithic cists and cairns	Venkunnam	Vandavasi

DISTRICT : VILLUPURAM

Sl. No.	Name Of the Site	Locality	Taluk
120.	Urn Burial site	Kadagampattu	Vanur
121	Megalithic cairns with stone circles	Sengamedu	Vanur
122	Megalithic stone circles	Tiruvakkarai	Vanur

DISTRICT : PERAMBALLUR

Sl. No.	Name Of the Site	Locality	Taluk
123	Megalithic cists and cairns	Karai	Peramballur

STATE : PUDUCHERRY (DISTRICT: PUDUCHERRY)

Sl. No.	Name Of the Site	Locality	Taluk
124	Archaeological site and remains at Arikamedu (Ancient site)	Ariankuppam	Puducherry

UNDER TRICHY CIRCLE of ASI (TOTAL NOs 35)**DISTRICT: COIMBATORE**

Sl. No.	Name Of the Site	Locality	Taluk
1	Mandapakadu(Structure with mound)	Chettipalayam	Coimbatore

DISTRICT: DINDUGUL

Sl. No.	Name Of the Site	Locality	Taluk
2	Dolmens near Palamalai	Adukkam	Kodaikanal
3	Dolmens in Machur Reserved Forest	Pannaikadu	Kodaikanal
4	Dolmens near Machur	Pannaikadu	Kodaikanal
5	Dolmens near Talayar River on the Top of a hill	Pannaikadu	Kodaikanal
6	Dolmens	Vilpatti	Kodaikanal

DISTRICT : MAYILADUTHURAI

Sl. No.	Name Of the Site	Locality	Taluk
7	Kambarmedu	Melaiyur	Mayiladuthurai

DISTRICT: PUDUKKOTTAI

Sl. No.	Name Of the Site	Locality	Taluk
8	Dolmens and cairns	Amburapatti	Kulathur
9	Prehistoric Burial site Locally known as "Kuranguppattarai"	Ammachatram	Kulathur
10	Prehistoric Burials stone circles and menheirs	Annavasal	Kulathur
11	Dolmens in the Right Flank of Chokkanathan Kanmoi	Chokkanathanpatti	Tirumayam
12	Dolmens	Kilaiyur	Kulathur
13	Prehistoric Burial site	Melur	Kulathur
14	Dolmens	Mootampatti	Kulathur

15	Prehistoric Burial sites in Thumbakkulam water spread	Narangianpatti	Kulathur
16	Dolmens	Perungalur	Alangudi
17	Prehistoric Dolmens	Peyal	Kulathur
18	Dolmens and Ayyanar Image	Poyyamani and Virudapatti	Kulathur
19	Prehistoric Burials	Puttambur	Alangudi
20	Prehistoric Burial Site	Sathiyamangalam	Kulathur
21	Cairns and urns	Sendakudi	Alangudi
22	Dolmens and urns	Sengalur	Kulathur
23	Dolmens in Annavasalvattam	Sittannavasal	Kulathur
24	Dolmens known as Kurangupattarai	Thayinipatti	Kulathur
25	Prehistoric burials in the Sivapuramkanmoi water spread	Thekkattur	Kulathur
26	Kalasa kadu Burial site	Tirukkattalai	Alangudi
27	Group of Dolmens	Tiruppur	Kulathur
28	Prehistoric Burial site	Vadagupatti	Kulathur
29	Old Burial site	Vathanakkurichi	Kulathur
30	Prehistoric Burial site	Vilapatti	Kulathur

DISTRICT: TOOTHUKUDI

Sl. No.	Name Of the Site	Locality	Taluk
31	Prehistoric remains	Adichanallur	Srivaikundam
32	Prehistoric remains	Kalvoi	Srivaikundam
33	Prehistoric remains	Karungulam	Srivaikundam

DISTRICT: TIRUPPUR

Sl. No.	Name Of the Site	Locality	Taluk
34	Prehistoric sites popularly known as "Pandava Graves"	Kanyampundi	Avinashi

DISTRICT: TIRUNELVELI

Sl. No.	Name Of the Site	Locality	Taluk
35	Ancient site at Kunnathur	Kunnathur	Tirunelveli
