

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1140
ANSWERED ON- 05.12.2024

EXCAVATION OF ANCIENT SITES IN TAMIL NADU

1140. SHRI M.MOHAMED ABDULLA

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:-

- (a) the details of ancient sites where the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has conducted excavations in Tamil Nadu during the last five years; and
- (b) the quantum of funds that have been earmarked and spent by ASI exclusively for carrying out excavations in Tamil Nadu in the last five years?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), has conducted archaeological excavations at Vadakkupattu, and Adichanallur between 2020 and 2024.

The site of Vadakkupattu, District Kanchipuram (2021-22 and 2022-23), is dated from Middle Palaeolithic to Early Medieval Period. Antiquities unearthed during the excavation from the site include Middle Paleolithic stone tools and other antiquities of the Early Historical Period including Tamil Brahmi inscribed sherds, sculptures, semi-precious stone beads, copper coins and gold objects.

The site of Adichanallur, District Thoothukudi (2021-22 and 2022-23) is dated to Megalithic Period. During the excavation, more than 160 urn and pit burials were exposed along with skeletal remains, grave goods and ceramics. Other antiquities include gold diadems/ fillets and high tin bronze objects.

(b)

Year	Expenditure
2020-21	99,087
2021-22	78,41,356
2022-23	94,99,908
2023-24	1,21,66,420
2024-25	32,88,081
