

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.506
ANSWERED ON 04.12.2025

PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF MONUMENTS IN TAMIL NADU

506. SHRI N.R. ELANGO:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the measures taken by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to protect and preserve monuments in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) whether ASI would return all the estampages currently held in Mysore, as directed by the Hon'ble Madras High Court and if so, by when;
- (c) whether ASI has completed the digitization of all Tamil language estampages in its possession; and
- (d) by when these estampages would be made accessible to the public?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) There are 412 ancient monuments and areas (sites) of national importance in the State of Tamil Nadu under the care and maintenance of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Periodic inspections are carried out to assess the conditions of monuments and areas (sites) and to formulate annual work programs for necessary upkeep. Accordingly, conservation and maintenance works are taken up based on the requirement and subject to availability of resources following national conservation policy.
- (b) Yes sir. Currently, out of 24,806 Tamil estampages, 13,246 have already been shifted to Epigraphy Branch, Chennai from Epigraphy Branch, Mysore.
- (c) Out of the 24,806 Tamil estampages, scanning has been completed for 13,740 estampages.
- (d) ASI publications on epigraphy such as Annual Report on Indian Epigraphy South Indian Inscription Volumes, Epigraphy Indica Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum are already accessible to the public at ASI's publication counters.
