

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 358
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2017**

EXCAVATIONS IN TAMIL NADU

**358. SHRI BHARATHI MOHAN R.K.:
SHRIMATI V. SATHYA BAMA:
SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN:**

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the ancient artefacts and articles found during archaeological excavations of ancient sites in Tamil Nadu have been moved out of the State and are kept in excavation branch at Mysore;
- (b) if so, the details of the antiquities found along with the list of publications and memoirs made on various archaeological excavations in Tamil Nadu by ASI and the reasons for keeping the articles at Mysore instead of Tamil Nadu;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to keep the artefacts in Tamil Nadu by building an on-site museum and if so, the details and if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the funds allocated by the Government to conduct more such excavations;
- (d) whether the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has discovered some significant evidence of very old civilization during excavation in various places of Tamil Nadu in the recent past and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Chinese made artefacts recovered in Ukkirankottai excavation site suggest trade links between the Pandya Kingdom and China and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CULTURE & MINISTER OF
STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE.**

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) The excavated artifacts of season 2014-2015 from Keeladi, Sivaganga District, Tamil Nadu are kept in the Excavation Branch-VI Bangalore, whereas the antiquities of 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 season have been shifted to the office of Archaeological Survey of India at Chennai Circle as per the direction of Hon'ble Madras High Court, Madurai for the purpose of report writing.
- (b) The list of antiquities discovered by ASI during excavation at Keeladi is at Annexure-I. A preliminary report of Keeladi excavation has been submitted. The list of archaeological excavation carried out by ASI is at Annexure-II. As per practice the materials discovered during excavation remains with the concerned excavating agency for report writing study purpose and safe keeping.
- (c) As per Hon'ble High Court, Tamil Nadu order, the Archaeological Survey of India should set up a museum at Keeladi with financial support of the State Govt. The Govt. of Tamil Nadu has allotted 2 Acres of land also. During the season 2017-2018 permission has been accorded to Department of Archaeology, Tamil Nadu to carry out excavation at Keeladi by the Standing Committee of Central Advisory Board of Archaeology.
- (d) Archaeological Survey of India has carried out excavation during the year 2005-2006 at Saluvamnkuppam, 2007-2008 Siruthavur District Kanchipuram and 2010-2011 Malaiyadipatti District Pudukottai, Tamil Nadu. The excavations at Keeladi has revealed early historic remains tentatively datable to c.300 BC-300 CE.
- (e) No Chinese-made artefacts were recovered from the excavation.

**Statement Referred to in reply part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred
Question No. 358 for 18.12.2017**

List of Objects recovered from the Keeladi Excavations during the seasons
2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17

Sl.No	Description/	Material	Number of objects obtained in 2014-15 and 2015-16	Number of objects obtained in 2016- 17
1.	Antimony Rod	Copper	14	1
2.	Animal Figurine	Terracotta	2	1
3.	Antler	Antler	1	
4.	Arrowhead	Bone	43	
5.		Antler	3	
6.		Iron	1	
7.	Axe	Iron	1	
8.		Stone	1	
9.	Ball	Stone	15	2
10.		Terracotta	16	2
11.	Bangle pieces	Copper	18	1
12.		Glass	43	4
13.		Shell	61	4
14.	Bead	Agate/Banded Agate	21	10
15.		Amethyst		9
16.		Beryl	1	
17.		Carnelian including etched	34	9 including one etched
18.		Copper	8	1
19.		Crystal	2	13
20.		Faience		8
21.		Glass	2633	936
22.		Gold	3	2
23.		Iron	1	
24.		Ivory	2	
25.		Jasper		10
26.		Paste	603	435
27.		Pearl	6	
28.		Quartz	41	7
29.		Unidentified Semi Precious Stones	31	
30.		Shell	6	
31.		Soapstone	68	9
32.		Unidentified Stones	8	
33.		Terracotta	308	41
34.		Unidentified material	16	32
35.	Bell	Copper		1
36.	Bone Points	Bone	10	
37.	Cake	Terracotta	13	2
38.	Celt/Chisel	Dolerite/Basalt	7	
39.		Iron	1	3
40.	Coin	Copper	7	6 (one lead?)

41.	Comb	Ivory	2	1
42.	Conch	Shell	8	
43.	Cowrie	Shell	79	
44.	Crucible	Terracotta	1	
45.	Dagger	Iron	2	
46.	Flakes/Debitage	Chert	7	5
47.	Horn	Horn	1	
48.	Dice	Shell	1	
49.		Terracotta	3	
50.	Disc	Glass	1	
51.		Stone	4	
52.		Terracotta	562	20
53.	Door Socket	Stone	2	
54.	Earlobe	Terracotta	54	10
55.	Figurine	Terracotta	15	
56.	Gamesmen	Stone/Ivory	3	2
57.		Terracotta	95	22
58.	Gold Objects			4
59.	Grinding stone	Granite/Basalt	6	
60.	Hopscotch	Stone	1	
61.		Terracotta	13	98
62.	Iron Miscellaneous objects	Iron	3	
63.	Inscribed sherds		75 (approx.)	20 (1 stone?)
64.	Knife	iron	7	
65.	Lamp	Terracotta	9	2
66.	Knob of lids	Terracotta	19	
67.	Nail	Iron	72	39
68.	Pendent	Stone	1	
69.		Copper	1	
70.		TC	1	3
71.	Pestle/Quern	Stone	7	5
72.	Pipe	Copper	1	
73.		Iron	1	
74.		Terracotta	3	
75.	Point	Bone	7	
76.	Ring	Copper	5	
77.		Glass	3	
78.		Iron	4	
79.		Ivory	1	
80.		Terracotta	3	
81.	Sickle	Iron	3	
82.	Small pot	Terracotta	1	
83.	Spearhead	Iron	15	
84.	Spindle whorl	Terracotta with/without iron	23	
85.	Spoon	Terracotta	1	
86.	Spout	Terracotta	11	
87.	Other objects			98

Annexure-II

Statement Referred to in reply part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 358 for 18.12.2017

Excavations carried out by Archaeological Survey of India in Tamil Nadu in
Recent Past

Sl.No.	Year	Name of the site.
1.	2005-06 and 2006-07	Saluvankuppam, District Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu
2.	2007-08	Siruthavur, District Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu
3.	2010-11	Malaiyadipatti, District Pudukottai, Tamil Nadu