

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3177  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06-08-2018**

**PUBLICATION OF HISTORICAL INSCRIPTIONS**

**3177. SHRI K. N. RAMACHANDRAN:  
SHRI BHARATHI MOHAN R.K.:  
SHRI PR. SENTHIL NATHAN:**

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the ASI and Epigraphic Society of India have discovered and copied several thousands of Tamil inscriptions found in ancient temples of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and in foreign countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of the Tamil inscriptions found so far State-wise, Country-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to publish those historically important Tamil inscriptions and allocated any funds in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the ASI has adequate epigraphist to execute the work and if so, the number of epigraphists working in ASI?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) Yes Madam, Epigraphy Branch has copied nearly 38,200 Tamil inscriptions from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. The jurisdiction of Epigraphy Branch is only in India.

Epigraphical Society of India is a private organization and not involved in this work.

- (b) The details are as under:-

Tamil Nadu, about	36,000
Andhra Pradesh, about	1,000
Karnataka, about	1,000
Telangana, about	200

- (c)&(d) The gist of all inscriptions is published in **Annual Report on Indian Epigraphy** and texts of inscriptions are published in South Indian Inscriptions in 37 volumes.

Funds are allocated as per requirement.

- (e) ASI has adequate epigraphists and the 04 sanctioned posts for Tamil language are all presently filled up.