

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4170
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.01.2019**

CHLORIDE CORROSION OF IDOLS

4170. DR. K. GOPAL :

Will the **Minister of CULTURE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the ASI team found that a significant percentage of the 1,100 idols screened so far in the Tiruvarur icon centre in Tamil Nadu, which housed at least 4,380 antiques, suffer from bronze cancer;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also true that the chloride corrosion of idols is incurable and sometimes contagious; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) As per the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras in Crl.O.P.No.8690, 12060 and 24150 of 2017, Archaeological Survey of India is responsible to examine the objects kept at Icon Centre, Thiyagaraja Swami Temple at Thiruvarur, only to ascertain whether they are Antiquities or not under Section 24 of Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972. Till date ASI has examined 735 object. However to study the idols suffered from bronze cancer is not assigned to the Archaeological Survey of India.
- (d)