

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 101
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.02.2019**

KEEZHADI EXCAVATION

101. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN :

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total funds allocated for the Keezhadi Excavation during the last three years along with the detailed information relating to results of Carbon Dating; and
- (b) the further steps taken/being taken by the Government in connection with the Keezhadi Excavation?

ANSWER

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

(DR.MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) The details of funds (in lakhs) allotted for Keezhadi Excavation are as follows:

Financial year	ASI	Department of Archaeology, Tamil Nadu
2015-16	50.00	Nil
2016-17	44.50	Nil
2017-18	23.65	55.00

The radiocarbon dates obtained by A.S.I are 397-350 BCE & 309-209 BCE (Beta-489243) and 360-156 BCE (Beta- 489244). The Department of Archaeology, Government of Tamil Nadu is yet to obtain the radiocarbon dates.

- (b) The Government of India has approved for the excavation at Keezhadi for the field season 2018-19 by Department of Archaeology, Government of Tamil Nadu.