

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1340
ANSWERED ON 11.12.2023

DECLARATION OF UNDERWATER SITES IN SEAS AS NATIONAL MONUMENTS

1340. SHRI T.R. BAALU:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are requests for the declaration of sites located/submerged in seas in the country like Adams Bridge as national monuments pending decision with the Government of India;
- (b) if so, the details of such demands and decisions taken by the Government;
- (c) the statutory norms for declaring national monuments; and
- (d) the details of the money spent by the Central Government on the maintenance of such national monuments during the last three years?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

- (a) The matter regarding declaration of Ram Setu as a national monument is *subjudice*. No & other proposal for declaration of site submerged in seas to be of national importance is
- (b) pending at present.
- (c) The declaration of monuments and sites is done under section 4 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958. Central Government issues a notification of its intention to declare any ancient monument to be of national importance by giving two months' notice, inviting views/objections from public. After considering the views/objections received during the period, the Central Government may declare the ancient monument to be of national importance by publishing a notification in the official gazette.
- (d) There are 3697 monuments and sites declared as of national importance under the AMASR Act, 1958 in the country. Expenditure incurred on their maintenance during the last three years is as under:

Year	Expenditure (Rupees in crore)
2020-21	260.83
2021-22	269.57
2022-23	391.93
