

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1342  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.11.2019**

**EXCAVATIONS IN KEELADI**

**1342. DR. VISHNU PRASAD M.K.:**

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

- (a) Whether the archaeological excavations in Keeladi, Vaigai Plains, Tamil Nadu have confirmed rich cultural deposits dating back to 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) The role of ASI in the excavations and the funds allocated for the purpose during the last two years?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CULTURE & TOURISM  
(PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)**

- (a) The earliest period is represented by finer variety of Black & Red ware, associated red & slipped ware, terracotta ring wells and brick structure.
- (b)
- (c) The ASI issues approval for the excavation at Keeladi, being conducted by the Department of Archaeology, Tamil Nadu at present. The Government of Tamil Nadu is conducting the excavation within their available funds.