

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4019**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.03.2022

**UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY WING**

4019. SHRI D.M. KATHIR ANAND:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Underwater Archaeology Wing of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has not conducted and under water exploration during the last ten years and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether archaeological remnants belonging to Sangam period in ancient Tamil Nadu have been recovered from Tamil Nadu near Poompuhar and Korkai;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether ASI is willing to associate with the State Department of Archaeology, Tamil Nadu in the marine exploration works and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN  
REGION

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

- (a) Excavations at Poompuhar were conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) between 1962 to 1968. Information about excavations carried-out at the site during different seasons has been published in "Indian Archaeology - A Review", during corresponding years. Later, Tamil Nadu State Archaeology Department also conducted excavation at this site.
- (d)

Excavation at Korkai was undertaken by the Tamil Nadu State Archaeology Department and findings were also published.

ASI works in collaboration with institutions/governments in the field of excavation, on the basis of mutually agreed terms and conditions.