

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *191
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2024**

PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES

***191. KM. SUDHA R:**

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the measures taken by the Government to preserve and promote the rich historical and cultural heritage sites such as Poompuhar and Thiruvidadaimarudur;
- (b) the details of funds allocated and utilised so far for the purpose; and
- (c) the details of any specific plans for the restoration and conservation of ancient temples and monuments in these areas and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House.
- to
- (c)

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *191 FOR 05.08.2024.

- (a) Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) takes up conservation and preservation work of 3697 centrally protected monuments and sites across the country including excavated remains of Buddhist Vihara and temple at Pallavareswaram, Melaiyur, (Kaveripattinam) Dist., Mayiladuthurai also known as Poompuhar. The protected monuments and sites are regularly inspected by officials of ASI and measures for conservation and preservation of monuments are taken up as per the need, priority and availability of resources. Further, ASI organises many cultural awareness programmes for promotion of culture on the occasion of World Heritage Day, World Heritage week, International Yoga Day etc. The Thiruvidadimarudur, Dist., Thanjavur is not under the protection of ASI.
- (b) The details of expenditure incurred on conservation and preservation work in Poompuhar, Mayiladuthurai district of Tamil Nadu State during the last three years is given below:

(Amount Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	Year	Expenditure
1.	2021-22	Nil
2.	2022-23	9.07
3.	2023-24	3.92

- (c) Conservation and development works have been taken up at the Excavated remains of Buddhist Vihara and temple at Pallavareswaram, Melaiyur, (Kaveripattinam) Dist., Mayiladuthurai such as providing revetment wall to the excavated remains and also provided public amenities such as signage's, benches and solar lights.

There are four centrally protected monuments falling in Thanjavur district including World Heritage Site at Brihadeeshwara Temple, Thanjavur and three in Mayiladuthurai district.

The expenditure incurred on these monuments in Thanjavur district and Mayiladuthurai district during last three years is given under:

(Amount Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	Year	Expenditure	
		Thanjavur district	Mayiladuthurai district
1.	2021-22	33.00	1.65
2.	2022-23	157.00	17.00
3.	2023-24	173.36	10.20

Conservation and preservation of monuments/sites is a continuous process and is taken up as per the need of monuments/site and availability of resources while following the National Conservation Policy 2014