

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2633
ANSWERED ON 17.03.2025

PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SITES IN TAMIL NADU

2633. SHRI C N ANNADURAI:
SHRI SELVAM G:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of historical and cultural sites in Tamil Nadu that are currently protected under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) along with their district-wise details;
- (b) the details of the steps taken by the Government for the preservation, restoration and conservation of these sites during the last five years;
- (c) the details of total funds allocated, released and utilized for the preservation of historical and cultural sites in Tamil Nadu under various Government schemes;
- (d) whether the Government has taken any steps to digitally document or promote historical sites through virtual tours, digital archives, or tourism campaigns and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has any plans to nominate new sites from Tamil Nadu for UNESCO World Heritage status or collaborate with international organizations for conservation efforts and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) There are 412 protected monuments and archaeological areas and remains declared as of national importance in the State of Tamil Nadu. The District-wise numbers are given at **Annexure**.
- (b) Their periodic review, inspection, conservation and preservation is taken up by & Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) as per the need and requirement considering
- (c) availability of funds and resources. The details of allocation and expenditure on the conservation and maintenance of the protected monuments and areas of Tamil Nadu during the last five years is as under:

(amount in crore)

| Year | Allocation | Expenditure |
|---------|------------|-------------|
| 2019-20 | 9.60 | 9.60 |
| 2020-21 | 7.25 | 7.25 |
| 2021-22 | 12.00 | 12.00 |
| 2022-23 | 19.95 | 19.95 |
| 2023-24 | 22.5 | 22.5 |

- (d) ASI has prepared a digital database of its protected monuments and archaeological sites, besides virtual tours of rich cultural heritage are also being organized at various museums.
- (e) At present there is no such plan to nominate new sites/properties from Tamil Nadu for UNESCO World Heritage Status.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2633 FOR 17.03.2025.

DISTRICT-WISE NUMBER OF PROTECTED MONUMENTS AND PROTECTED AREAS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA IN THE STATE OF TAMIL NADU

| Sl.No. | District | Number of Monument and areas |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Ariyalur | 03 |
| 2. | Chennai | 15 |
| 3. | Coimbatore | 01 |
| 4. | Cuddalore | 01 |
| 5. | Dharmapuri | 01 |
| 6. | Dindigul | 07 |
| 7. | Erode | 01 |
| 8. | Kanchipuram | 156 |
| 9. | Kanyakumari | 05 |
| 10. | Karur | 01 |
| 11. | Krishnagiri | 02 |
| 12. | Madurai | 08 |
| 13. | Nagapattinam | 05 |
| 14. | Namakkal | 02 |
| 15. | Nilgiri | 01 |
| 16. | Perambalur | 04 |
| 17. | Pudukkottai | 109 |
| 18. | Salem | 02 |
| 19. | Sivaganga | 01 |
| 20. | Thanjavur | 04 |
| 21. | Theni | 01 |
| 22. | Thirunelveli | 04 |
| 23. | Thoothukudi | 03 |
| 24. | Tiruchirappalli | 05 |
| 25. | Tiruppur | 03 |
| 26. | Tiruvallur | 15 |
| 27. | Tiruvannamalai | 13 |
| 28. | Vellore | 17 |
| 29. | Villupuram | 21 |
| 30. | Virudhunagar | 01 |
| | TOTAL | 412 |
