

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2402.**  
ANSWERED ON 4.8.2025

**Protection of State led Excavation from Political Intervention**

2402:DR. T SUMATHY ALIAS THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- a) whether any Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) staff transfers were carried out without consultation, have been causing disruption in Keezhadi's scientific excavation and public trust;
- b) the details of the assurances given by the Government to State Government of Tamil Nadu for maintaining archaeological continuity and dating credibility under ASI;
- c) whether inter-governmental expert panels or heritage bodies have been constructed beyond ASI—to validate and preserve Sangam period research; and
- d) the details of the legislative measures exist or are proposed to protect State-led excavations from political intervention?
- e)

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) : No, Sir.
- (b) : No assurances have been given by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to the State Government of Tamil Nadu for maintaining archaeological continuity and dating credibility.
- (c) : No expert panels or heritage bodies have been constructed beyond ASI to validate and preserve Sangam period research.
- (d) : The excavations in the country are conducted as per the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958. Respective state governments have enacted their own legislation, aligning with the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.