

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 50
ANSWERED ON-21.07.2025

KEEZHADI EXCAVATION FINDINGS

50. Thiru Dayanidhi Maran:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the specific scientific accuracy concerns raised by the Archaeological Survey of India that necessitated requesting a revised report from the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology regarding the Keezhadi excavation findings;
- (b) the timeline provided to the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology for submitting the revised Keezhadi excavation report incorporating ASI's scientific accuracy requirements;
- (c) the details of the additional excavation phases and funding support being provided by ASI for the tenth phase of Keezhadi excavation that began on June 18, 2024, which has already identified six terracotta pipelines and various urban settlement structures; and
- (d) the details regarding the coordination mechanism established between ASI and the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology to ensure scientific integrity in future excavation reports from the Vaigai river valley archaeological sites?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has not requested for any revised report on Keezhadi from the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology.
- (b) Question does not arise.
- (c) Since 2018, Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology is conducting excavations at the site, for which ASI does not provide any funding support.
- (d) ASI provides permission for excavations as per the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 and Rules 1959 and ensures implementation of the Act. It also provides technical support, as and when requested by any agency including State Department of Archaeology.
