

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*339.
ANSWERED ON 16.03.2026

STATUS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION PROPOSALS

*339. SHRI DAGGUMALLA PRASADA RAO:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the list of new archaeological exploration proposals received during the last two years along with the current status thereof, year and State/UT-wise;
- (b) the details of the total funds allocated, released and utilised for archaeological explorations, excavations and maintenance of sites under Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) during the last five years, year and State/UT-wise;
- (c) the details of the list of archaeological sites under ASI in Andhra Pradesh;
- (d) the details of the funds sanctioned and utilised for the adoption of advanced technological tools like Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) and ground penetrating radar, etc., by regional ASI centres during the last five years, year and State/UT-wise; and
- (e) whether the Government has organised any training sessions for regional ASI staff for using the said technologies during the last two years, if so, the details thereof along with the number of persons trained?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *339 FOR 16.03.2026. RAISED BY SHRI DAGGUMALLA PRASADA RAO: HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING STATUS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION PROPOSALS

- (a) The year wise and the state wise details of the proposals received for archaeological exploration during the last two years are given at **Annexure-I**.
- (b) The details of the funds allocated and utilized by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for archaeological explorations and excavations are given at **Annexure- II** and the maintenance of protected monuments and protected areas during last five years are given at **Annexure-III**.
- (c) The list of archaeological sites under ASI in Andhra Pradesh is given at **Annexure-IV**.
- (d) Advanced technological tools are being used for the exploration and excavation of archaeological sites and expenditure for the same is made under funds allocated for exploration and excavation. Such studies have been carried out at some archaeological sites like Rajgir (Bihar), Rakhigarhi (Haryana), Bhismaknagar (Arunachal Pradesh) and Warangal Fort (Telangana), as per requirement.
- (e) Such training programs are organised by the institutions having expertise in these area. ASI has deputed 14 officials from Southern Region to attend workshop on **Integrating Digital Documentation for Cultural Studies** in 2025.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *339 FOR 16.03.2026.

THE YEARWISE AND THE STATEWISE DETAILS OF THE PROPOSALS RECEIVED FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS

Name of the States	2024		2025	
	Approved	Not-Approved	Approved	Not-Approved
Andhra Pradesh	-	-	1	-
Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	1	-
Assam	1	-	-	-
Gujarat	1	-	2	-
Himachal Pradesh	-	1	2	-
Jharkhand	1	-	1	-
Kerala	2	-	-	-
Ladakh (U.T.)	-	1	1	-
Madhya Pradesh	-	1	2	-
Maharashtra	2	-	2	-
Tamil Nadu	1	-	2	1
Sikkim	-	-	1	-
West Bengal	-	-	1	-
Uttar Pradesh	1	1	1	-
Uttarakhand	-	-	2	-
Total	09	04	19	01

ANNEXURE-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *339 FOR 16.03.2026.

THE DETAILS OF THE FUNDS ALLOCATED AND UTILIZED BY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA (ASI) FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPLORATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS

(In lakhs)

State/ UT	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25	
	Allot.	Exp.	Allot.	Exp.	Allot.	Exp.	Allot.	Exp.	Allot.	Exp.
Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	3.70	2.00	1.99
Arunachal Pradesh/ Assam/ Meghalaya/ Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.78	16.78	18.00	17.90	4.00	3.99
Bihar	14.50	14.50	32.00	32.00	40.00	40.00	145.0 0	145.0 0	59.95	59.95
Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.30	0.60	0.60
Delhi	1.29	1.27	2.42	2.22	62.85	59.51	48.00	28.71	78.50	76.66
Goa	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.50	3.50	3.50	14.62	14.62	0.15	0.15
Gujarat	117.0 1	117.0 0	328.5 2	328.5 0	174.9 5	174.9 5	111.0 0	110.9 9	123.00	123.00
Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.49	0.07	0.07
Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.20	6.15	46.50	46.37	9.83	9.82
Jammu & Kashmir	1.50	1.50	5.00	5.00	3.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	52.00	52.00
Karnataka	25.50	25.50	19.83	19.83	152.4 2	152.3 8	34.00	33.56	81.27	81.12
Kerala	1.00	0.99	0.50	0.50	4.00	4.00	5.00	3.70	2.00	1.96
Ladakh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.80	0.80	4.11	4.11	0.00	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	20.50	20.47	17.36	17.36	26.50	26.50	42.50	41.19	118.00	118.00
Maharashtra	40.50	39.58	46.90	46.43	82.97	78.82	96.50	95.99	86.36	78.87
Manipur/ Mizoram/ Tripura	1.00	0.93	0.80	0.80	8.00	8.00	0.15	0.15	0.00	0.00
Odisha	6.00	6.00	11.80	11.80	40.00	39.72	70.00	70.00	131.50	131.50
Panjab/ Haryana	10.00	10.00	6.47	6.47	1.00	1.00	25.00	25.00	63.00	63.00
Rajasthan	1.00	1.00	1.50	1.50	27.38	27.38	8.00	8.00	165.96	165.96
Tamil Nadu	3.50	3.49	49.50	49.47	114.0 0	114.0 0	137.6 7	137.6 7	130.50	130.34
Telangana	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	39.00	39.00	1.00	1.00	3.06	3.06

Uttarakhand	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	1.70	1.70
Uttar Pradesh	6.50	6.08	78.00	77.76	168.50	167.90	235.43	235.22	138.65	138.58
West Bengal/ Sikkim	0.00	0.00	2.80	2.80	18.00	18.00	3.12	2.84	9.96	9.96
Total	250.00	248.30	609.00	607.96	1000.00	994.09	1130.00	1122.74	1262.00	1251.24

ANNEXURE-III

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *339 FOR 16.03.2026.

THE DETAILS OF THE FUNDS ALLOCATED AND UTILIZED BY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA (ASI) FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF PROTECTED MONUMENTS AND PROTECTED AREAS

(Amount Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25	
		Allot.	Exp.								
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4.57	4.57	5.75	5.75	11.60	11.60	14.70	14.70	12.90	12.90
2.	Assam/ Meghalaya/ Nagaland/ Arunachal Pradesh	3.04	3.04	3.30	3.30	7.44	7.44	8.78	8.78	5.72	5.71
3.	Bihar	1.23	1.23	3.35	3.35	9.00	9.00	16.00	16.00	8.73	8.73
4.	Chhattisgarh	2.89	2.89	4.78	4.78	7.50	7.50	5.94	5.94	8.19	8.19
5.	Delhi (NCT)	24.51	24.51	19.10	19.08	30.50	30.35	36.14	36.14	24.95	24.94
6.	Goa	3.70	3.70	7.00	7.00	10.45	10.45	9.90	9.90	9.00	9.00
7.	Gujarat/ Daman & Diu (UT)	7.34	7.34	10.50	10.50	14.09	14.09	14.50	14.50	10.70	10.69
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1.25	1.25	1.15	1.15	8.90	8.90	5.00	5.00	2.80	2.79
9.	Jharkhand	0.88	0.88	1.18	1.16	2.00	2.00	2.15	2.15	2.25	2.25
10.	Jammu & Kashmir (U.T)	0.80	0.80	2.55	2.55	6.11	6.03	7.17	7.17	4.90	4.89
11.	Karnataka	20.77	20.77	25.07	25.07	39.93	39.93	39.16	39.16	22.53	22.53
12.	Kerala	2.03	2.03	6.82	6.82	7.50	7.50	7.09	7.09	6.30	6.30
13.	Ladakh (UT)	0.20	0.20	0.43	0.43	1.92	1.92	3.50	3.50	2.20	2.20

14.	Maharashtra	18.16	18.16	24.50	24.49	39.05	39.04	52.54	52.54	37.39	37.39
15.	Madhya Pradesh	15.00	15.00	16.25	16.25	22.90	22.90	26.49	26.49	19.30	19.29
16.	Manipur/ Mizoram/ Tripura	1.31	1.31	1.25	1.25	2.00	2.00	1.29	1.29	1.26	1.25
17.	Odisha	3.63	3.63	8.23	8.23	13.18	13.17	12.29	12.29	11.50	11.37
18.	Punjab/ Haryana	0.80	0.80	1.50	1.50	6.53	6.53	11.00	11.00	8.40	8.40
19.	Rajasthan	11.50	11.50	12.03	12.03	17.93	17.93	23.40	23.40	20.16	20.15
20.	Tamil Nadu/Puducherry	7.25	7.25	12.00	12.00	19.95	19.95	22.50	22.50	18.95	18.94
21.	Telangana	2.80	2.80	7.00	6.80	15.50	15.50	14.38	14.38	6.80	6.77
22.	Uttarakhand	4.60	4.60	3.75	3.75	4.85	4.85	5.42	5.42	5.10	5.10
23.	Uttar Pradesh	22.26	22.22	42.24	42.24	63.65	63.53	65.54	65.54	45.23	45.17
24.	West Bengal/Sikkim	7.38	7.37	12.67	12.57	17.16	17.16	17.10	17.10	12.11	12.11
25.	Chemical conservation (all India)	3.82	3.81	6.51	6.48	9.91	9.89	8.36	8.36	3.88	3.74
26.	Horticultural activity (all India)	44.75	44.75	19.33	19.32	--	--	--	--	--	--
27.	DG office	44.42	44.42	11.74	11.73	3.15	2.77	13.19	13.19	2.17	2.15
28.	Reserve	-	-	0.02	0.00	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Total	260.90	260.83	270.00	269.57	392.71	391.93	443.53	443.53	313.43	313.04

ANNEXURE-IV

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *339 FOR 16.03.2026.

THE DETAILS OF THE LIST OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES UNDER ASI IN ANDHRA PRADESH

Sl. No.	Name of the Site
1.	Ancient Mound in part of S. No. 855 A, Ramatirtham (Hamlet of Varini), Nellore (Present- Ramatirtham, SPSR. Nellore)
2.	Ancient Buddhist Site, Kalingapatnam, Srikakulam (Present- Kalingapatnam, Srikakulam)
3.	Ancient site and remains comprised in survey plot No. 37, Munagacherla, Krishna (Present- Munagacherla, NTR)
4.	Ancient Mound, Pedganjam, Guntur (Present-Peddaganjam, Bapatla)
5.	Mound known as 'Bodipati Dibba', Ramatirtham (Hamlet of Varini), Nellore (Present- Ramatirtham, SPSR. Nellore)
6.	Mounds containing Buddhist remains such as stupas, Adurru, East Godavari (Present- Adurru, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Konaseema)
7.	Mounds locally known as Bhimalingadibba, Denduluru, Kistna (Present- Denduluru, Eluru)
8.	The caves and structural stupa of Archaeological interest on Dharmalingesvar swami hill, Jilakarragudem (Hamlet of Guntupalli), Ellore (Present- Jilakarragudem, Eluru)
9.	The mounds of Pedavegi: Dibba No.1 Dibba No.2, Dibba No. 3, Dibba No. 4, Dibba No. 5, Pedavegi, Kistna (Present- Pedavegi, Eluru)
10.	Ancient Site, Pusalapadu, Prakasam
