

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1530
ANSWERED ON-09.02.2026

COOPERATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS IN TAMIL NADU

1530. SMT. KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court has recently directed the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to positively consider and extend full cooperation to any request made by the State Government of Tamil Nadu for continuation of archaeological excavations at Adichanallur, Thoothukudi;
- (b) the details of the number of requests received by the ASI from the State Government of Tamil Nadu seeking permission or cooperation for archaeological excavations during the last five years and the current year, year-wise; and
- (c) the details of the number of such requests approved, rejected or pending along with the reasons for non-approval, if any?

ANSWER

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

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Details of the proposals forwarded by the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology for seeking approval of the Government of India for conducting archaeological excavation as follows:

year	Proposals	Approved
2021	12	12
2022	08	08
2023	03	03
2024	10	10
2025	12	04 (08*)
2026	--	--
Total	45	45

(*under consideration)
