

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6976
ANSWERED ON:13.05.2002
TEMPLES OF PALLAVA DYNASTY
A.K. MOORTHY;SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether out of the seven temples of the Pallava dynasty in Mahabalipuram six temples are sub-merged in the sea;
- (b) if so, whether the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has made any efforts to discover the ruins of those six temples;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government propose to set up an Archaeological Research Centre at Chengalputtu which is famous for the arts and ancient sculptures of Pallavas; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

- (a) The said existence of seven temples (Pagodas) at Mahabalipuram is a local tradition recorded by the early European travellers and there is no conclusive evidence so far to prove submergence of six of the temples as claimed.
- (b) & (c) The Archaeological Survey of India in collaboration with the Geological Survey of India had carried out a preliminary survey in 1996-97 followed by another conducted by the ASI alone in 2001 -2002 when archaeological remains like pottery, brickbats etc. were documented. This available evidence is not sufficient to substantiate the legend regarding the submergence of six temples.
- (d) There is no such proposal.
- (e) Question does not arise.