

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4231
ANSWERED ON:10.04.2003
EXCAVATION WORK
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Navy had recently excavated a British ship wrack;
- (b) if so, the details of the things taken out;
- (c) whether Indian Navy proposes to continue the excavation work in other areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (e): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4231
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The Indian Navy and the Archaeological Survey of India carried out first joint excavation as a pilot project on a wreck off Bangaram Island in the Lakshadweep group. Samples of broken glazed ware, Chinese porcelain, amphoras, copper strips and nails were taken out for analysis at the Archaeological Survey of India.

Indian Navy has the necessary expertise in diving and underwater work and would like to participate in future endeavours jointly with the other agencies of the Government of India who have the expertise in archaeological aspects.