

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2180
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2010
USE OF TAMIL LANGUAGE IN ANCIENT TIMES
Thamaraiselvan Shri R.

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether various excavations in the State of Tamil Nadu had revealed many important informations regarding the use of Tamil language in ancient times;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has decided to preserve some of the sites which have underwent excavation as heritage sites; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Various excavations in the State of Tamil Nadu from sites like Kodumanal, Mangudi, Uraiur, Mangalam, and excavation in Arikamedu of Union Territory of Puducherry inscribed on pot-sherds containing Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions assignable to circa 3rd Cent. B.C. -3rd Cent. A.D. (belonging to Sangam age) have revealed important information regarding the Tamil inscriptions.

Excavation conducted at Saluvankuppam Distt. Kanchipuram brought to light Tamil inscription dateable to Pallavas (8th Cent. A.D.) and Rashtrakutas (10th Cent. A.D.).

(c) & (d) The structural remains at Kaveripattinam, district Nagapattinam is in good state of preservation and the structural remains at Saluvankuppam, district Kanchipuram have been strengthened and conserved.