

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2510
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2013
DISCOVERY OF ANCIENT INSCRIPTIONS
Sugumar Shri K.

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any policy for excavation and exploration of ancient/ historical sites and inscriptions in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the salient features of the policy for the purpose;
- (c) whether ancient inscriptions of Tamil Brahmi have been discovered by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in many parts of Tamil Nadu and if so, the details thereof, location-wise;
- (d) the details of other inscriptions of historical importance of ancient India discovered during excavations in various parts of the country; and
- (e) the action plan of the Government/ASI to carry out excavation and exploration to unearth items of historical importance of ancient India?

Answer

MINISTER OF CULTURE SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH

- (a)&(b) The Central Government through the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 empowers the Archaeological Survey of India to regulate archaeological excavations in the country. The relevant portion of the Act is at Annexure-I.
- (c) Yes, Madam. The details are at Annexure-II.
- (d) The details are at Annexure-III
- (e) Exploration/excavation is the original mandate of Archaeological Survey of India, under which the proposals for exploration/excavation are called in from all the field offices of Archaeological Survey of India, Departments of Archaeology from different State Governments and all University Departments of Ancient Indian History, Archaeology which are scrutinized by the Standing Committee of Central Advisory Board for Archaeology for their recommendations on yearly basis.