

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to set up a National Fossil Museum at Ariyalur and Perambalur districts of Chidambaram Parliamentary Constituency of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI (CHIDAMBARAM): I wish to draw the attention of the Union Government to the need for setting up of a National Fossil Museum each in Ariyalur and Perambalur districts of my Chidambaram constituency.

There are many Palaeontological sites in my constituency belonging to Crustacean period dating back to 146 to 65 million years. Some of these sites have been identified by the Govt. of Tamil Nadu in Varanavasi village in Keelapaluvor Panchayat of Ariyalur district and in Kaarai-Village and Kulakanattham-Village of Perambalur district. 240 varieties of fossils and 12 rare minerals have been found in these archaic sites. These sites assume very high importance as they belonged to marine transgression type and this will be very helpful in studying the historical development of civilization in India particularly in Tamil Nadu. The Tamil Nadu Government has already undertaken conservation works at a cost of Rs.2 crores. A detailed project work for setting up of National Fossil Museum with all faculties for research works has also been submitted to the Ministry of Culture.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister of Culture to take necessary action for conservation and preservation of rare fossils and for setting up of National Fossil Museum at these important Palaeontological sites in Ariyalur and Perambalur districts of my constituency.