

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3202  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.12.2018**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION IN UKKIRANKOTTAI IN TAMIL NADU**

**3202. SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN:**

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Department of Archaeology is carrying out excavations in Ukkirankottai village in Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the excavations have revealed that the site of excavation was an important town in the early Pandya Period between 600 and 1000 AD and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether any Chinese-made artefacts or articles were recovered at the excavation site suggesting of trade links between the Pandya kingdom and the Chinese and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE, (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CULTURE AND MINISTER OF  
STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**(DR.MAHESH SHARMA)**

- (a) Yes Madam, the Department of Archaeology, Government of Tamil Nadu carried out excavation at Ukkirankottai during 2014-15.
- (b) The excavation brought to light the remains of an early Pandya temple. The other findings are pot sherds, redware, blackware, hopscotch, iron nails, conch bangle pieces and bricks.
- (c) No, Madam.