

Regarding funds for excavation near the coastal areas of south India

KUMARI SUDHA R. (MAYILADUTHURAI): * Thank you Madam Chairperson for this opportunity. Hon. Prime Minister during his recent visit to Gangaikonda Cholapuram in Tamil Nadu assured that he will ensure making the pride and achievements of Cholas reach and spread wide throughout the world. Hon. Prime Minister gave a big assurance to the people and the State of Tamil Nadu that the pride of Cholas particularly of King Rajendra Chola would be spread throughout the world. He assured to do everything in this regard. On this basis, I have come here with a demand.

The Great Cholas ruled the world and controlled the sea because they had a powerful navy. Their ships carried over 1,000 elephants and they reached far and wide on the east coast. They conquered most of the present day South East Asian nations. The two ports from where they launched their naval expeditions are Poompuhar and Sembanarkoil. Both ports are laying within Mayiladuthurai Parliamentary Constituency. The Prime Minister, while lauding the Great Cholas at Gangaikonda Cholapuram on 27th July, announced that this Government will do everything to propagate the fame of the Cholas. I request the Government to announce offshore excavation of Poompuhar and Chembanarkoil coastal as they are treasure trove of information on the Chola legacy.

Chola's legacy is India's legacy too. If offshore excavation is done at the site of Keeladi, India's naval might will be known to the world. I request the Government to announce a special project, a special team and allocate special funds to do offshore excavation along the coast of Poompuhar and Sembanarkoil. Both were the ports of the Great Cholas. ...**

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