

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1037
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2003
NUMISMATICS DEPARTMENT UNDER ASI
P.D. ELANGO VAN

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have any proposal to start a separate branch for the study of numismatics under the ASI for the study of ancient coins and monetary system in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof circle-wise and the list of catalogues and manuals brought out so far by the ASI specifically dealing with Numismatics;
- (c) whether the Government are aware that a huge collections of ancient coins of great historical significance are dumped in the treasury offices and the store rooms of the museums without any comprehensive study ; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to study and catalogue those treasure trove finds and to make them easily accessible and available for Research Students and academicians all over the world?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

- (a) & (b) No, Sir. The Government has no such proposal. However, the Epigraphy Branch of the ASI studies and deciphers the ancient and medieval coins . These are being reported in the series of `Indian Archaeology - A Review` .
- (c) & (d) Yes, Sir. The coins are available in the strong rooms of museums and of the Central Antiquity Collection Section of the Archaeological Survey of India. These are documented and recorded in accession registers. These are made available to the research scholars as and when required by them.