

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:416
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2006
DISCOVERY OF INSCRIPTS
Senthil Dr. Raman

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether any assessment has been made about the number of inscripts discovered in the country so far;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) Whether many of these epigraphs are not properly preserved in the offices of Archaeological Survey of India and are getting destroyed;
- (d) If so, the details thereof; and
- (e) The corrective measures taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 416 FOR 24.8.2006 BY DR.R.SENTHIL, HON'BLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING "DISCOVERY OF INSCRIPTS"

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir.

The Epigraphy Branch (Arabic & Persian at Nagpur and Sanskrit & Dravidan at Mysore) of the Archaeological Survey of India has so far discovered and copied 73,901 inscriptions from different parts of the country.

(c) to (e): No, Sir.

The epigraphs that constitute part of the heritage monuments are conserved and preserved as per the established archaeological norms. Those which are movable are kept in the safe custody in the site museums and sculpture sheds of the Archaeological Survey of India. The copies of the inscriptions (stumpages, made on beaten paper) are preserved by the Epigraphy Branches of ASI, and are periodically monitored to mend the old and worn out estampages, if any.