

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2453
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2006
DISCOVERY OF STATUES AND PILLARS IN TAMIL NADU .
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Archaeological Survey of India has discovered various statues and other ornamental pillars from Tamil Nadu recently;
- (b) If so, the details thereof; and
- (c) The steps taken by the Archaeological Survey of India to preserve all the heritage values in the State?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir.

The details of the statues and ornamental pillars discovered in Tamil Nadu during the last three years are at annexure.

(c) 413 monuments and sites in Tamil Nadu are protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. The ASI undertakes their regular maintenance, structural repairs and environmental development in accordance with the established archaeological norms.

The excavated archaeological objects are documented and kept in the safe custody of the Chennai Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India