

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to allocate Rs 20 crore for archaeological excavations at

Keezhadi near Madurai in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P.R. SENTHILNATHAN (SIVAGANGA):The Tamil Civilization has 2000 years of continuous history and tradition. The excavations at Keezhadi, near Madurai by the Archaeological Survey of India, had provided concrete proof for the existence of a sophisticated urban settlement belonging to the golden era for Tamil culture, the Sangam Age.

Several archaeological evidences were found at Keezhadi including the ancient structures, ring wells, walls and platforms, large brick floors along with antiquities. Keezhadi excavations had revealed the remnants of urban settlements like a complex drainage systems with terracotta pipes and bigger platforms made of bricks and six furnaces, indicating Industrial activity. 74 Tamil Brahmi inscriptions on ancient potteries revealing Tamil names mentioned in Sangam literature were also discovered.

This is a great moment for all of us and if we excavate the 90 other sites along the Vaigai river, I am sure we will find many more ancient artifacts and archaeological evidences mentioned in Sangam literature of the great Madurai city, the capital of a glorious Sangam Tamil civilization. Thus for the first time we have clinching evidences for Ancient Sangam age Vaigai river civilization similar to that of Indus Valley civilisation.

I urge the Government to allocate Rs. 20 Crore for conducting further excavations at Keezhadi and to establish an insituMuseum for which the Government of Tamil Nadu has provided 2 acres of land.

