

### **Ocean archaeology research**

3222. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Archaeological Survey of India had carried out the ocean archaeology research for Dwarka some time back;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is also considering to take up ocean archaeology research for Kumari continent and Poompuhar buried in the ocean; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in collaboration with Indian Navy conducted underwater investigation, off Dwarka in January-February, 2007. Diving was conducted near Samudra-Narayan temple to a distance of 200 mts. from shore. Stone blocks and remains of structures, lying on the seabed, were documented. Since these structural remains, studied by the divers are, not *in-situ* it is not possible to determine their exact, nature.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India's Underwater Archaeology Units intends to undertake archaeological exploration in the area.

### **Monuments in Kannauj**

3223. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of monuments being controlled and maintained by Archaeological Survey of India in district Kannauj, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of them are neglected and in deplorable condition;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these monuments have potential for increasing tourism if infrastructure is strengthened and proper upkeep of monuments is ensured; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) All the twelve centrally protected monuments in District Kannauj are in fairly good State of preservation as per the list given in the Statement (See below).

(b) to (d) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) undertakes conservation and maintenance of these monuments on regular basis. These monuments have also been developed from the tourism point of view, with special focus on their structural stability, overall preservation and day-to-day maintenance.