

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2096
ANSWERED ON 16.12.2021

PROTECTING ARIKAMEDU

2096. SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the ancient port city of Arikamedu in the Union Territory of Puducherry is in an utter state of neglect;
- (b) whether Government will take immediate steps to protect the area by erecting barricades and to eliminate encroachments and sand mining; and
- (c) whether Government will streamline the administration of the local unit office of culture by shifting the office in close proximity of Arikamedu and by appointing a full time conservation officer?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

- (a) No, Sir. All the steps are taken periodically to maintain the ancient site of Arikamedu by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the site is in a good state of conservation.
- (b) Conservation of monuments and sites, including Arikamedu, is a continuous & process. Necessary steps have been initiated to conserve and protect the
- (c) site. Puducherry sub – circle under Chennai Circle of the ASI is responsible for its maintenance and conservation.