

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2738**

TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2024

**DECODING INDUS SCRIPT**

**2738. SHRI JAGGESH:**

**SHRI NARAYANA KORAGAPPA:**

Will the Minister of **Culture** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that hundreds of attempts have been made by scholars from different fields to decode the Indus script, without much success and conflicting theories on the origins of ancient Indian communities;
- (b) whether Government proposes to launch a scientific study to investigate the population history of South Asia using ancient and modern genomics to address the conflicting theories; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the timeframe for possible conclusive narrative?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

(GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a): The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture conducts academic discussions, and engages with various scholars to explore the decipherment of scripts including Indus script. These discussions reveal a diversity of viewpoints amongst experts, highlighting the complexity of the task even though these have efforts have yielded valuable insights.
- (b) to (c): There is no such proposal to launch scientific study to investigate population history of South Asia using genomics to address conflicting theories.

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